

Supporting Information

Brønsted acid cocatalysis in visible-light photocatalytic intramolecular coupling of tertiary amines: efficient synthesis of indoles under mild conditions

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A: General Information and Starting Materials

General Information. Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (^1H -NMR) spectra and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (^{13}C -NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer (400 MHz and 100 MHz). Chemical shifts for protons are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane or referenced to residual solvent. Chemical shifts for carbon are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane or referenced to residual solvent. Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants in Hertz (Hz). High resolution mass spectrometry (ESI) were carried out using a Waters Quatro Macro triple quadrupole mass spectrometer Mass spectra (EI) were measured on a Waters Micromass GCT spectrometer. Melting points were measured on a XT3A apparatus.

Starting Materials. All reactions were performed under nitrogen atmosphere in Schlenk-tube unless otherwise noted. Distilled water was sparged with nitrogen and used in the photoredox reactions. All other solvents, including those for NMR analysis, were used without further purification. All chemicals were purchased from commercial sources and used as received.

B: Supplementary Figures

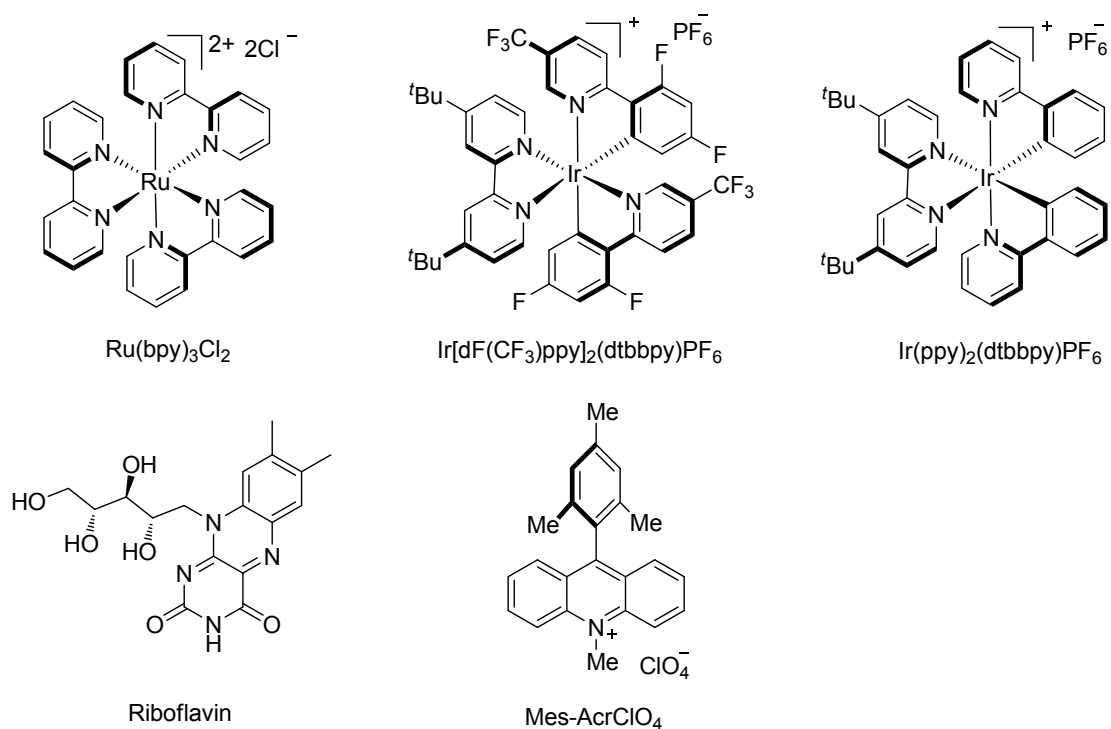
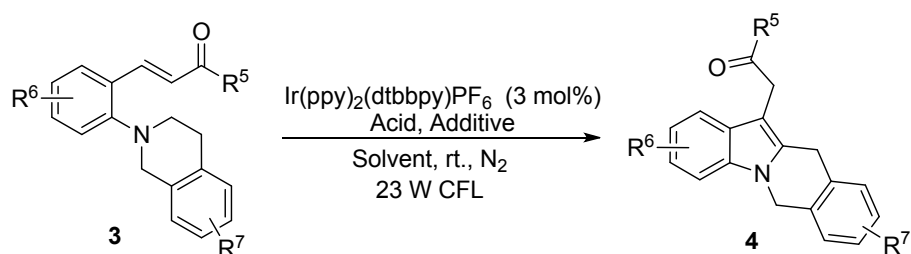


Figure S1. Photocatalyst screened for synthesis of indole derivatives.



entry	Acid	Additive	Solvent	yield (%) ^b
1	TFA (20 mol%)	None	CH ₃ CN	38
2	TFA (30 mol%)	None	CH ₃ CN	42
3	TFA (40 mol%)	None	CH ₃ CN	36
4	(PhO) ₂ PO ₂ H (30 mol%)	None	CH ₃ CN	34
5	TFA (30 mol%)	None	DMF	31
6	TFA (30 mol%)	None	DMSO	41
7	TFA (30 mol%)	None	DCM	49
8	TFA (30 mol%)	None	DCE	50
9	TFA (30 mol%)	TBHP (1 eq.)	DMF	25

10	TFA (30 mol%)	DDQ (1 eq.)	DMF	12
11	TFA (30 mol%)	Chalcone (1 eq.)	DMF	79
12	None	Chalcone (1 eq.)	DMF	NR
13 ^c	TFA (30 mol%)	Chalcone (1 eq.)	DMF	NR

[a] All reactions were performed on a 0.3 mmol scale using a 3 mol% photocatalyst, 1.5 mL solvent, and a 23 W CFL as the light source, at room temperature, 12 h. [b] Yield of the isolated product. [c] In the absence of light source. TFA = trifluoroacetic acid; (PhO)₂PO₂H = diphenylphosphoric acid.

Figure S2. Exploratory studies on synthesis of indole derivatives.

C: Synthesis and Characterizations of Substrates

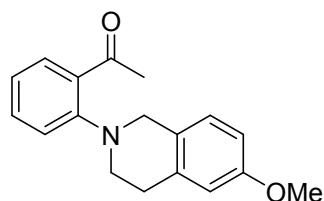
Method:

1a-r were prepared following the literature procedures.^[1] **3a-l** were prepared following the literature procedures.^[2]

References

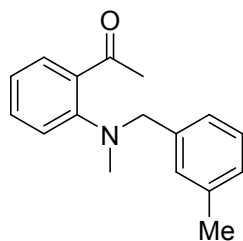
- [1] W.-t. Wei, X.-j. Dong, S.-z. Nie, Y.-y. Chen, X.-j. Zhang, M. Yan, *Org. Lett.* 2013, **15**, 6018.
[2] P. Kohls, D. Jadhav, G. Pandey, O. Reiser, *Org. Lett.* 2012, **14**, 672.

Characterization of new substrates

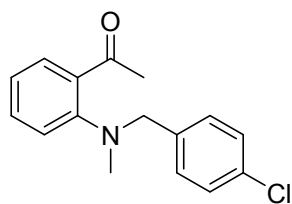


1-(2-(6-methoxy-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (1c).

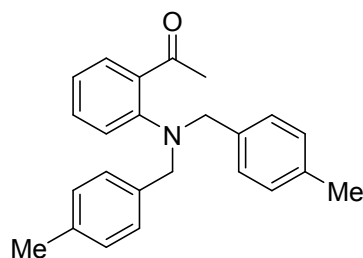
Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.33 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 2.96 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 204.5, 158.2, 151.1, 135.3, 135.1, 132.0, 129.4, 127.3, 126.5, 122.3, 118.9, 113.4, 112.4, 55.3, 54.6, 51.2, 29.3, 29.2; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₈H₂₀NO₂ (M+H)⁺ 282.1489, found 282.1492.



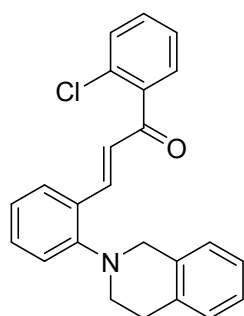
1-(2-(methyl(3-methylbenzyl)amino)phenyl)ethan-1-one (1m). Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.45 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.04-6.93 (m, 4H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 2.66 (s, 6H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 203.9, 151.4, 138.0, 137.3, 133.9, 131.8, 129.4, 129.2, 128.3, 128.1, 125.5, 121.1, 119.1, 60.7, 41.9, 29.4, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₇H₂₀NO (M+H)⁺ 254.1540, found 254.1544.



1-(2-((4-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino)phenyl)ethan-1-one (1n). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.44 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (td, $J = 8.3, 7.9, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.02-6.93 (m, 2H), 4.15 (s, 2H), 2.64 (dd, $J = 3.3, 1.2$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 203.6, 150.9, 135.9, 134.0, 133.1, 131.8, 129.8, 129.4, 128.6, 121.5, 119.3, 60.1, 41.8, 29.5; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClNO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 274.0994, found 274.0996.

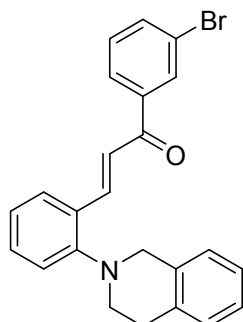


1-(2-(bis(4-methylbenzyl)amino)phenyl)ethan-1-one (1q). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.45 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (ddd, $J = 8.7, 7.3, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 4H), 7.01-6.93 (m, 5H), 6.87 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 4H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 203.9, 150.1, 137.0, 135.3, 134.0, 131.5, 129.6, 129.1, 129.0, 121.9, 121.5, 56.9, 29.7, 21.3; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 344.2009, found 344.2012.

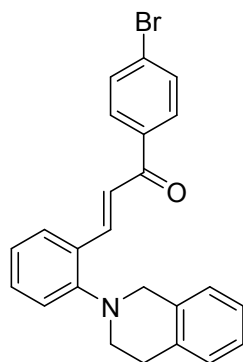


(E)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-(2-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (3b). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.63 (d, $J = 16.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.17 (td, $J = 8.7, 8.1, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.04 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 3H), 6.99-6.93 (m, 2H), 4.03 (s, 2H), 3.11 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.68 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ

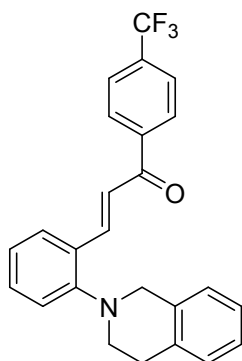
152.8, 145.2, 139.1, 134.4, 134.3, 131.7, 131.0, 130.9, 130.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 126.7, 126.6, 126.4, 125.9, 123.0, 119.2, 54.4, 52.1, 29.4; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₄H₂₁ClNO (M+H)⁺ 374.1307, found 374.1311.



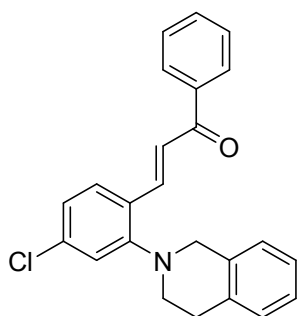
(E)-1-(3-bromophenyl)-3-(2-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (3c). Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (ddd, *J* = 16.3, 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.13 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.05 (m, 2H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 3.32 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 189.7, 153.1, 143.7, 140.2, 135.3, 134.5, 131.5, 130.1, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 127.0, 126.5, 126.3, 126.0, 122.9, 121.5, 119.4, 54.2, 52.2, 29.3; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₄H₂₁BrNO (M+H)⁺ 418.0802, found 418.0805.



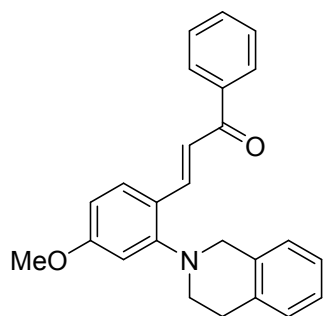
(E)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-3-(2-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (3d). Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.15 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.07 (m, 6H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.32 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.1, 153.0, 143.4, 137.1, 134.6, 134.5, 131.8, 131.4, 130.0, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 127.5, 126.5, 126.4, 126.0, 123.0, 121.7, 119.5, 54.4, 51.9, 29.4; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₄H₂₁BrNO (M+H)⁺ 418.0802, found 418.0804.



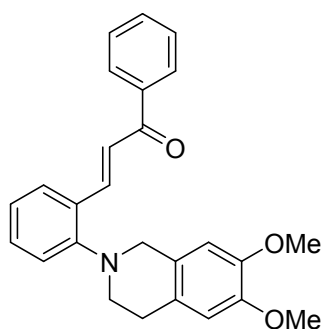
(E)-3-(2-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)phenyl)-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (3e). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.15 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.68 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.03 (m, 6H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 3.32 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.02 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 190.6, 153.1, 144.2, 134.5, 131.6, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 126.6, 126.3, 126.0, 125.6, 125.5 (d, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 123.1, 122.0, 119.6, 54.6, 51.8, 29.4; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_3\text{NO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 408.1570, found 408.1573.



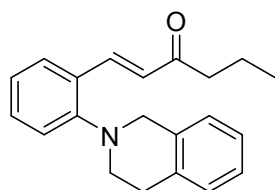
(E)-3-(4-chloro-2-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)phenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (3f). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.06 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.95-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.09 (ddd, $J = 14.9, 8.4, 2.0$ Hz, 3H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.31 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.05 (t, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 190.8, 153.8, 141.6, 138.2, 136.7, 134.3, 134.0, 132.7, 129.8, 129.1, 128.6, 128.5, 127.4, 126.6, 126.4, 126.1, 122.9, 122.3, 119.6, 53.9, 52.0, 29.4; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClNO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 374.1307, found 374.1310.



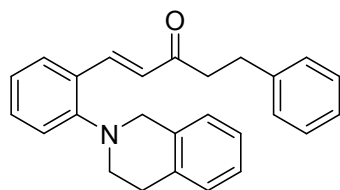
(E)-3-(2-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (3g). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.09 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.93-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (tdd, $J = 8.8, 6.3, 2.0$ Hz, 3H), 7.12-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.73-6.60 (m, 2H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.32 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.04 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 191.2, 162.4, 154.8, 142.7, 138.6, 134.5, 132.3, 130.7, 129.1, 128.5, 128.4, 126.5, 126.4, 125.9, 121.8, 120.0, 107.9, 105.7, 55.4, 54.2, 52.0, 29.4; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 370.1802, found 370.1805.



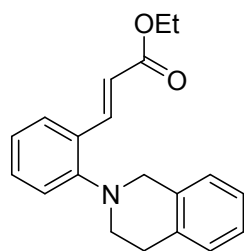
(E)-3-(2-(6,7-dimethoxy-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)phenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (3h). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.17 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.69 (dd, $J = 7.7, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.07 (m, 2H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.31 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.95 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 191.0, 152.9, 147.7, 147.4, 142.9, 138.3, 132.6, 131.1, 129.0, 128.5, 126.5, 126.4, 122.8, 122.1, 119.4, 111.7, 109.2, 56.0, 53.7, 52.0, 28.8; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 400.1908, found 400.1913.



(E)-1-(2-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)phenyl)hex-1-en-3-one (3j). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.94 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, $J = 7.8$, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.14 (m, 3H), 7.12-7.01 (m, 3H), 6.68 (dd, $J = 16.6$, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (s, 2H), 3.23 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.01 (t, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.59 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.66 (hd, $J = 7.3$, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 0.91 (td, $J = 7.4$, 1.4 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 201.2, 152.5, 140.2, 134.3, 131.0, 129.1, 128.9, 128.1, 126.8, 126.5, 126.4, 126.0, 123.0, 119.2, 54.2, 52.2, 42.0, 29.5, 18.1, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 306.1853, found 306.1857.



(E)-1-(2-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)phenyl)-5-phenylpent-1-en-3-one (3k). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.98 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, $J = 7.8$, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.11 (m, 8H), 7.11-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.71 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 3.27 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.01 (t, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.97 (s, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 200.1, 152.5, 141.2, 140.6, 134.5, 134.3, 131.1, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 126.5, 126.3, 126.0 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 123.0, 119.2, 54.2, 52.1, 41.7, 30.4, 29.3; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 368.2009, found 368.2012.



ethyl (E)-3-(2-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)phenyl)acrylate (3l). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.01 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, $J = 7.7$, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.08 (m, 3H), 7.07-6.95 (m, 3H), 6.34 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.17 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 4H), 3.18 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.97 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 167.4, 152.2, 142.3, 134.7, 134.6, 130.8, 129.0, 128.7, 128.0, 126.4, 126.4, 125.9, 122.8, 119.0, 117.9, 60.4, 53.6, 52.5, 29.3, 14.4; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 308.1646, found 308.1651.

D: Synthesis and Characterizations of Products.

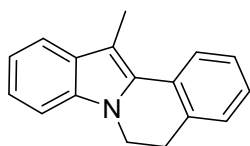
Method A:

Ketones (**1**, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diphenylphosphoric acid (30.0 mg, 0.12 mmol, 40 mol%) and Ir(ppy)₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (7.5 mg, 0.009 mmol, 3 mol%) were placed in a Schlenk-tube. The reaction vessel was evacuated and filled with nitrogen. DMF degassed with N₂ was then added. The reaction mixture was irradiated with a 23 W CFL (at approximately 2 cm away from the light source) at room temperature (using a fan to maintain the temperature at about 25 °C). Upon completion of the reaction, the resulting mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (20 mL × 3). The combined organics were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum/ethyl acetate as the eluent to give the corresponding product.

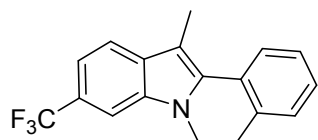
Method B:

Ketenes (**3**, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv), trifluoroacetic acid (10.3 mg, 0.09 mmol, 30 mol%), chalcone (62.5 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Ir(ppy)₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (7.5 mg, 0.009 mmol, 3 mol%) were placed in a Schlenk-tube. The reaction vessel was evacuated and filled with nitrogen. DCE degassed with N₂ was then added. The reaction mixture was irradiated with a 23 W CFL (at approximately 2 cm away from the light source) at room temperature (using a fan to maintain the temperature at about 25 °C). Upon completion of the reaction, the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum/ethyl acetate as the eluent to give the corresponding product.

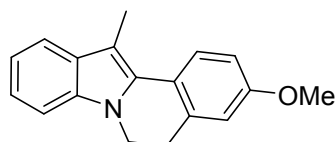
Characterization of Fluorinated Products:



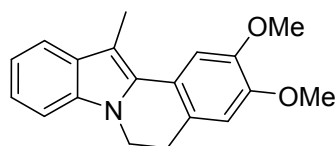
12-methyl-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (2a). White solid, mp 148.1-151.8 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (ddd, *J* = 9.8, 6.0, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 7.14-7.06 (m, 1H), 4.16 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 135.4, 133.5, 130.7, 130.4, 129.4, 128.4, 127.1, 126.6, 125.6, 122.0, 119.1, 118.9, 108.6, 107.2, 40.1, 30.3, 10.8; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₇H₁₆N (M+H)⁺ 234.1278, found 234.1282.



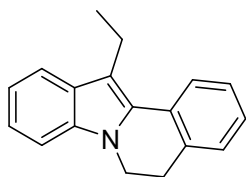
12-methyl-9-(trifluoromethyl)-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (2b). White solid, mp 126.6-128.2 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.71 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.14 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 134.2, 133.7, 133.3, 131.6, 129.6, 128.5, 127.4, 127.3, 125.9, 125.4 (q, J = 269 Hz), 123.7 (q, J = 32 Hz), 119.1, 115.6 (q, J = 4 Hz), 107.4, 106.1 (q, J = 5 Hz), 40.3, 30.0, 10.7; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{NF}_3$ ($\text{M}-\text{H}$) $^-$ 300.1006, found 300.1009.



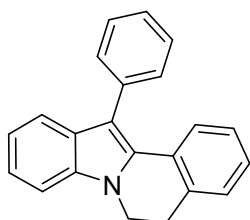
3-methoxy-12-methyl-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (2c). White solid, mp 122.5-123.8 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.78 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (dt, J = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (ddd, J = 8.2, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.06 (m, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.08 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.3, 135.2, 135.1, 130.9, 129.5, 126.9, 123.3, 121.4, 118.9, 118.5, 114.0, 112.5, 108.4, 105.5, 55.4, 40.0, 30.6, 10.7; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 264.1383, found 264.1385.



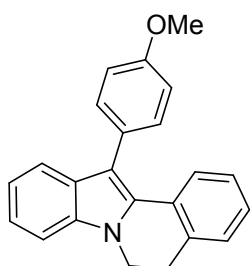
2,3-dimethoxy-12-methyl-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (2d). White solid, mp 125.0-127.2 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.59 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 4.17 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.05 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 148.0, 147.9, 135.2, 130.9, 129.5, 126.3, 123.0, 121.5, 118.9, 118.5, 111.7, 109.2, 108.4, 105.4, 56.1, 56.0, 40.2, 29.8, 10.6; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 294.1490, found 294.1493.



12-ethyl-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (2e). White solid, mp 134.5-135.7 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.54 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (td, J = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.04 (m, 4H), 7.01 (tt, J = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.16-2.87 (m, 4H), 1.30 (td, J = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 135.5, 133.7, 130.2, 130.1, 128.6, 128.5, 127.3, 126.8, 125.4, 122.0, 119.1, 118.9, 114.3, 108.8, 40.1, 30.3, 18.5, 15.3; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 248.1434, found 248.1439.

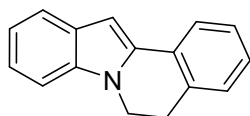


12-phenyl-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (2f). White solid, mp 156.3-159.1 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.47 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.30 (dd, J = 10.4, 6.5 Hz, 3H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.10-6.99 (m, 2H), 6.94 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.13 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 135.8, 135.5, 133.5, 130.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.2, 127.2, 126.7, 126.7, 126.1, 122.3, 120.0, 119.6, 113.9, 108.8, 40.3, 29.9; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 296.1434, found 296.1436.

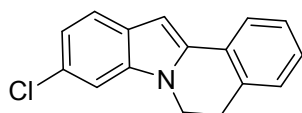


12-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (2g). White solid, mp 208.5-209.2 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.44 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.10 (m, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 5H), 4.15 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.08 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.5, 135.5, 133.5, 131.5, 130.4, 129.4, 129.0, 128.3, 128.0, 127.1, 126.7, 126.0,

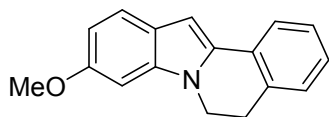
122.3, 119.9, 119.6, 114.3, 113.6, 108.8, 55.3, 40.3, 29.9; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $C_{23}H_{20}NO$ (M+H)⁺ 326.1539, found 326.1544.



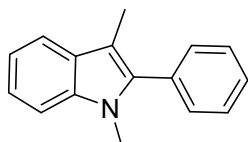
5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (2h). White solid, mp 127-129 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.76 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.10 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.19 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 136.7, 135.6, 132.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.4, 127.2, 124.4, 121.7, 120.7, 119.9, 108.9, 96.4, 40.1, 29.2; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $C_{16}H_{14}N$ (M+H)⁺ 220.1121, found 220.1125.



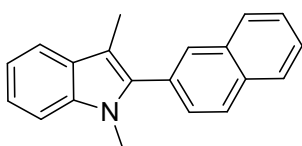
9-chloro-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (2i). White solid, mp 145.2-146.7 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.254-7.13 (m, 4H), 6.98 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.10 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.1, 136.4, 132.0, 128.6, 128.4, 127.6 (d, *J* = 19.8 Hz), 127.3 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz), 124.4, 121.5, 120.5, 109.1, 96.5, 40.2, 29.0; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $C_{16}H_{13}ClN$ (M+H)⁺ 254.0732, found 254.0735.



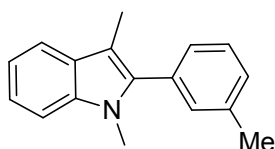
9-methoxy-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (2j). White solid, mp 157-158 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.71 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.81-6.71 (m, 3H), 4.20 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.18 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.4, 137.4, 134.8, 131.6, 129.2, 128.2, 127.2, 126.9, 123.9, 123.1, 121.4, 109.8, 96.4, 92.6, 55.7, 40.1, 29.2; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $C_{17}H_{16}NO$ (M+H)⁺ 250.1227, found 250.1229.



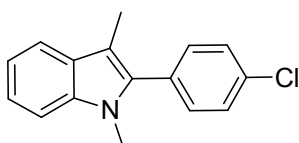
1,3-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1H-indole (2k). White solid, mp 65.1-66.7 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.60 (dt, $J = 7.8, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (ddd, $J = 7.8, 6.1, 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (td, $J = 6.8, 1.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.20-7.11 (m, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 137.7, 137.3, 132.2, 130.7, 128.5, 128.3, 127.7, 121.7, 119.1, 118.8, 109.2, 108.6, 30.9, 9.4; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 222.1272, found 222.1276.



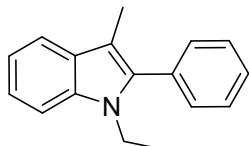
1,3-dimethyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1H-indole (2l). White solid, mp 206.3-207.7 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.88 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.33 (dd, $J = 18.5, 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.13 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 137.1, 135.9, 133.6, 133.2, 129.9, 129.5, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 126.6, 126.2, 126.1, 125.3, 121.6, 119.0, 118.8, 109.9, 109.2, 30.6, 9.3; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 272.1434, found 272.1439.



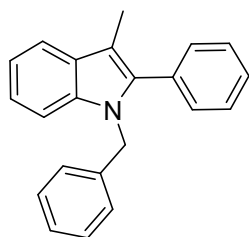
1,3-dimethyl-2-(m-tolyl)-1H-indole (2m). White solid, mp 132.5-134.9 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.60 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.12 (m, 5H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 138.0, 137.8, 137.2, 132.1, 131.3, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.8, 121.7, 119.1, 118.8, 109.2, 108.4, 31.0, 21.6, 9.4; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 236.1434, found 226.1438.



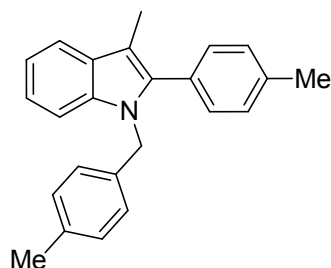
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,3-dimethyl-1H-indole (2n). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.59 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 3H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 137.4, 136.4, 133.9, 131.9, 130.7, 128.7, 128.4, 122.1, 119.3, 119.0, 109.3, 109.1, 31.0, 9.4; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 256.0888, found 256.0891.



1-ethyl-3-methyl-2-phenyl-1H-indole (2o). White solid, mp 61.4-62.1 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.60 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.14 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.06 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.24 (d, $J = 1.1$ Hz, 3H), 1.20 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 137.2, 136.0, 132.5, 130.6, 128.7, 128.4, 127.8, 121.6, 119.0, 118.9, 109.5, 108.8, 38.6, 15.3, 9.2; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 236.1434, found 236.1438.

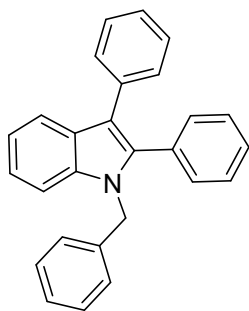


1-benzyl-3-methyl-2-phenyl-1H-indole (2p). White solid, mp 126.6-127.2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.54 (ddd, $J = 6.9, 3.2, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.19 (m, 5H), 7.08 (dt, $J = 9.5, 6.5, 2.7$ Hz, 6H), 6.85 (dd, $J = 7.4, 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 2.22 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 138.6, 137.8, 136.9, 132.1, 130.6, 128.9, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.1, 126.1, 122.0, 119.5, 118.9, 110.2, 109.2, 47.6, 9.5; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 298.1590, found 298.1595.

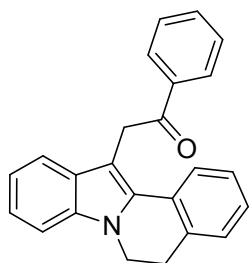


3-methyl-1-(4-methylbenzyl)-2-(p-tolyl)-1H-indole (2q). White solid, mp 145.6-

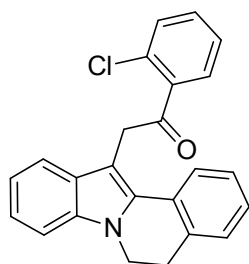
146.8 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.65-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.13 (dd, J = 5.9, 3.7 Hz, 3H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 137.9, 137.7, 136.8, 136.5, 135.6, 130.5, 129.3, 129.1, 129.1, 128.9, 126.0, 121.8, 119.3, 118.8, 110.3, 108.8, 47.4, 21.4, 21.1, 9.5; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 326.1904, found 326.1908.



1-benzyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (2r). White solid, mp 139-141 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.81-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.07 (m, 16H), 6.99-6.88 (m, 2H), 5.21 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 137.1, 136.8, 135.9, 134.1, 130.7, 130.0, 128.9, 127.6, 127.3, 127.1, 126.3, 126.1, 125.1, 124.5, 121.3, 119.4, 118.7, 114.6, 109.5, 46.6; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 360.1747, found 360.1752.

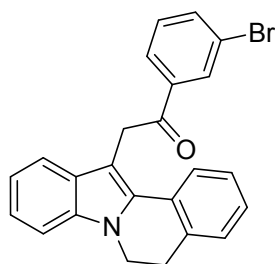


2-(5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)-1-phenylethanone (4a). White solid, mp 198.9-200.4 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.10 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 7.29 (dd, J = 14.4, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.07 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (s, 2H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.10 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.7, 137.0, 135.6, 134.0, 133.2, 132.5, 129.5, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 127.3, 127.2, 125.3, 122.2, 119.6, 118.8, 108.9, 104.1, 40.2, 36.1, 30.2; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 338.1540, found 338.1545.



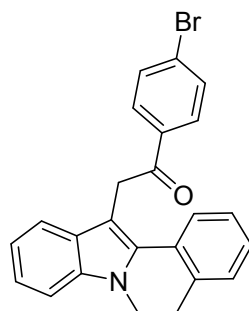
1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)ethanone (4b).

White solid, mp 195.3-196.6 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.76 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.06 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 4.23 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.08 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 201.6, 140.0, 135.5, 133.9, 132.8, 131.3, 130.4, 130.2, 129.3, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 127.4, 127.4, 126.8, 125.5, 122.2, 119.6, 118.8, 108.8, 103.2, 40.4, 40.1, 30.1; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClNO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 372.1151, found 372.1154.



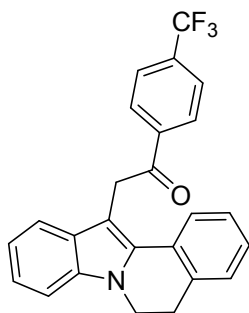
1-(3-bromophenyl)-2-(5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)ethanone (4c).

White solid, mp 201.3-203.4 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.08 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 4.24 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.11 (t, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.3, 138.5, 136.0, 135.5, 134.1, 132.5, 131.6, 130.2, 129.4, 128.9, 128.5, 127.4, 126.9, 125.1, 123.0, 122.3, 119.7, 118.7, 109.0, 103.5, 40.2, 36.4, 30.2; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrNO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 416.0645, found 416.0647.



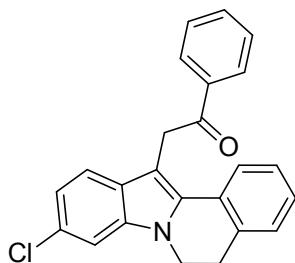
1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)ethanone (4d).

White solid, mp 198.7-200.3 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.62-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 3H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 4.26 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.13 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.7, 135.6, 135.5, 134.0, 132.4, 131.9, 130.0, 129.4, 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 127.4, 125.2, 122.3, 119.7, 118.7, 109.0, 103.7, 40.1, 36.3, 30.2; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₄H₁₉BrNO (M+H)⁺ 416.0645, found 416.0659.



2-(5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)-1-(4-

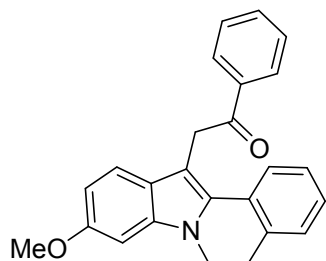
(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethanone (4e). White solid, mp 209-210 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 4.25 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 3.11 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.8, 139.5, 135.5, 134.5, 134.2, 134.1, 132.5, 129.3, 128.8, 128.8, 128.6, 127.4 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 125.7 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 125.1, 125.0, 122.3 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 119.8, 118.6, 109.0, 103.3, 40.2, 36.7, 30.2; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₅H₁₉F₃NO (M+H)⁺ 406.1414, found 406.1418.



2-(9-chloro-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)-1-phenylethanone (4f).

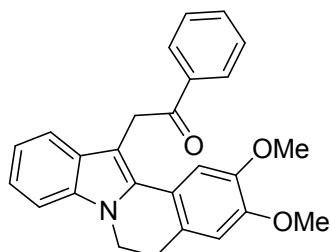
White solid, mp 184.1-185.8 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dt, *J* = 15.3, 5.5 Hz, 3H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 4.20 (t, *J*

= 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.12 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.4, 136.8, 135.9, 133.8, 133.3, 133.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 125.2, 120.2, 119.7, 109.0, 104.2, 40.3, 36.0, 30.1; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClNO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 372.1151, found 372.1154.



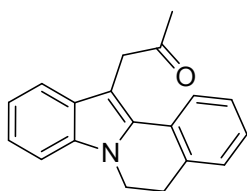
2-(9-methoxy-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)-1-phenylethanone (4g).

White solid, mp 190.2-192.5 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.10 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, J = 16.4, 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.80-6.69 (m, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 4.20 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.11 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.7, 156.8, 136.9, 136.3, 133.5, 133.2, 131.5, 129.7, 128.7, 128.4, 128.4, 127.3, 126.8, 124.8, 123.5, 119.6, 109.6, 104.2, 92.4, 55.8, 40.2, 36.2, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 368.1646, found 368.1650.

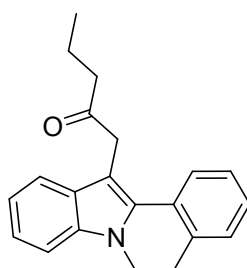


2-(2,3-dimethoxy-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)-1-phenylethanone

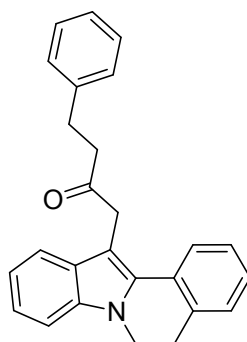
(4h). White solid, mp 198.5-200.3 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.11 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (ddd, J = 23.7, 15.0, 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (dd, J = 16.2, 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 4.24 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.07 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 198.3, 148.2, 148.0, 137.0, 135.4, 133.2, 132.7, 129.2, 128.7, 128.4, 126.6, 121.9, 121.8, 119.5, 118.3, 111.5, 108.7, 108.7, 102.6, 56.0, 55.6, 40.3, 36.2, 29.7; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 398.1751, found 398.1756.



1-(5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)propan-2-one (4i). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.16 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.27 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.09 (s, 2H), 3.14 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 208.0, 135.5, 133.8, 132.4, 129.2, 128.8, 128.5, 127.5, 125.4, 122.4, 119.8, 118.6, 109.0, 104.3, 41.3, 40.1, 30.1, 29.1; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 276.1383, found 276.1387.

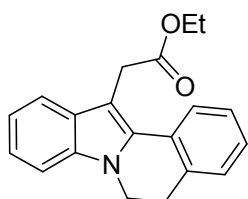


1-(5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)pentan-2-one (4j). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.75 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.15 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.26 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 3.13 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.49 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.64-1.49 (m, 3H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 210.0, 135.5, 133.8, 132.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 127.5, 127.4, 125.4, 122.3, 119.8, 118.6, 109.0, 104.3, 43.3, 40.7, 40.1, 30.1, 17.2, 13.7; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 304.1696, found 304.1699.



1-(5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)-4-phenylbutan-2-one (4k). White

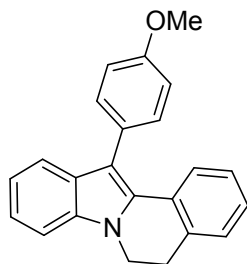
solid, mp 202.3-204.5 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.67 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.24 (m, 5H), 7.16 (dt, $J = 14.7, 7.1$ Hz, 4H), 7.05 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.24 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.07 (s, 2H), 3.11 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.90-2.77 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 209.0, 141.1, 135.5, 133.8, 132.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 127.5, 127.4, 126.0, 125.4, 122.4, 119.8, 118.6, 109.0, 104.0, 42.8, 40.9, 40.1, 30.1, 29.8; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 366.1853, found 366.1857.



ethyl 2-(5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)acetate (4l). Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.01 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, $J = 13.9, 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 7.23 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.30-4.14 (m, 4H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 3.11 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.25 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 172.1, 135.3, 134.0, 132.4, 129.3, 128.9, 128.4, 127.5, 127.4, 125.9, 122.2, 119.6, 119.2, 108.8, 103.9, 61.0, 40.1, 31.8, 30.2, 14.3; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 306.1489, found 306.1493.

E. X-ray Crystallographic Data

Single Crystal X-ray Diffraction Data for compound **2g**



X-ray structure determinations: Crystals of compound **2g** were obtained by slow evaporation of a mixture of n-pentane/acetone room temperature.

Crystal data for **2g**: CCDC 1480918

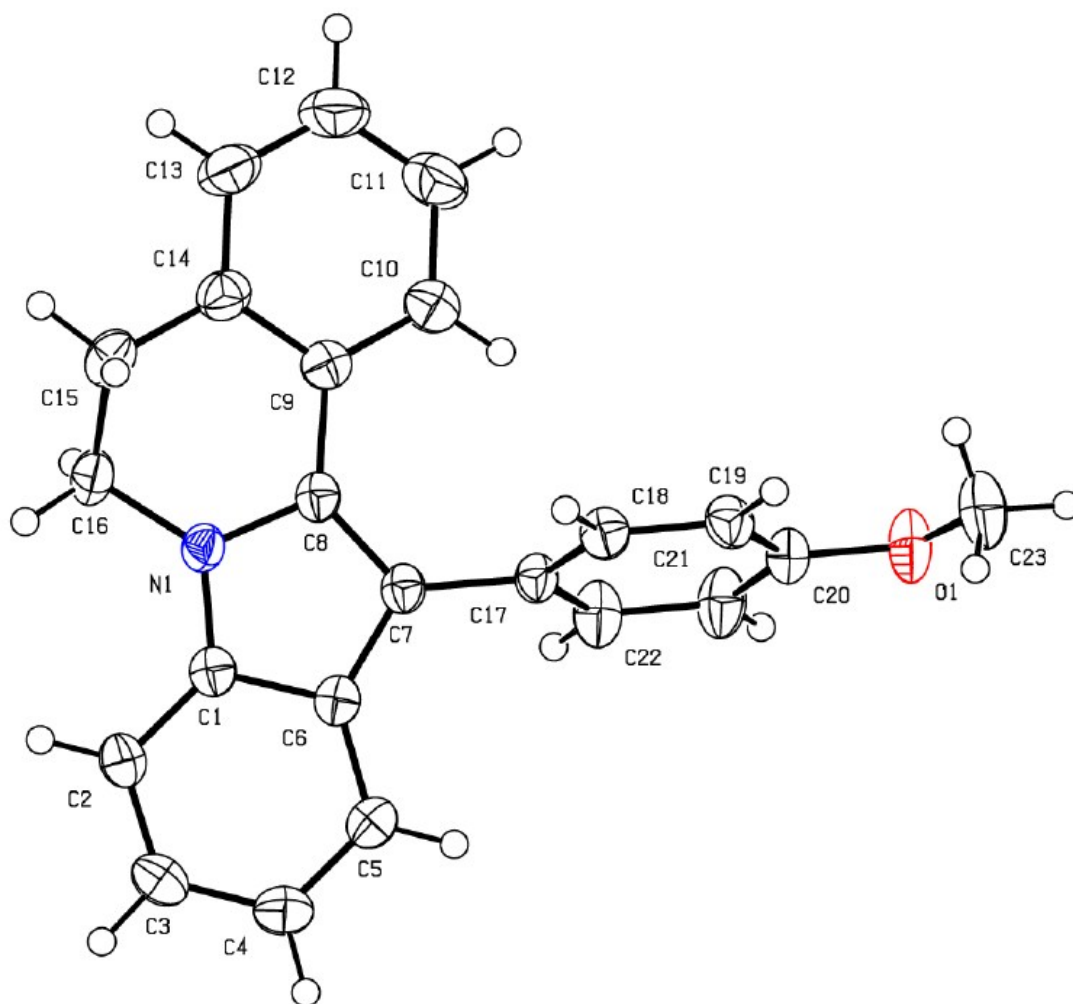
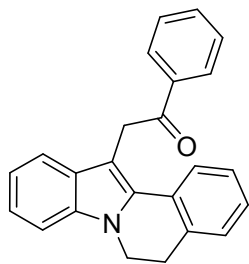


Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for CCDC 1480918.

Identification code	mo_60304b	
Empirical formula	C ₂₃ H ₁₉ N O	
Formula weight	325.39	
Temperature	223(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	P2 ₁ /c	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 8.9320(15) Å	a = 90°
	b = 6.9867(12) Å	b = 96.869(3)°
	c = 27.957(5) Å	g = 90°
Volume	1732.2(5) Å ³	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.248 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.076 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	688	
Crystal size	0.700 x 0.700 x 0.480 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	2.573 to 27.355°.	
Index ranges	-8 ≤ h ≤ 11, -9 ≤ k ≤ 9, -36 ≤ l ≤ 36	
Reflections collected	11839	
Independent reflections	3876 [R(int) = 0.0275]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	98.9 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.746 and 0.636	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Data / restraints / parameters	3876 / 0 / 228	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.052	
Final R indices [I > 2sigma(I)]	R ₁ = 0.0475, wR ₂ = 0.1348	
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0566, wR ₂ = 0.1442	
Extinction coefficient	0.027(4)	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.267 and -0.194 e.Å ⁻³	

Single Crystal X-ray Diffraction Data for compound 4a



X-ray structure determinations: Crystals of compound **4a** were obtained by slow evaporation of a mixture of n-pentane/acetone room temperature.

Crystal data for **4a**: **CCDC 1480927**

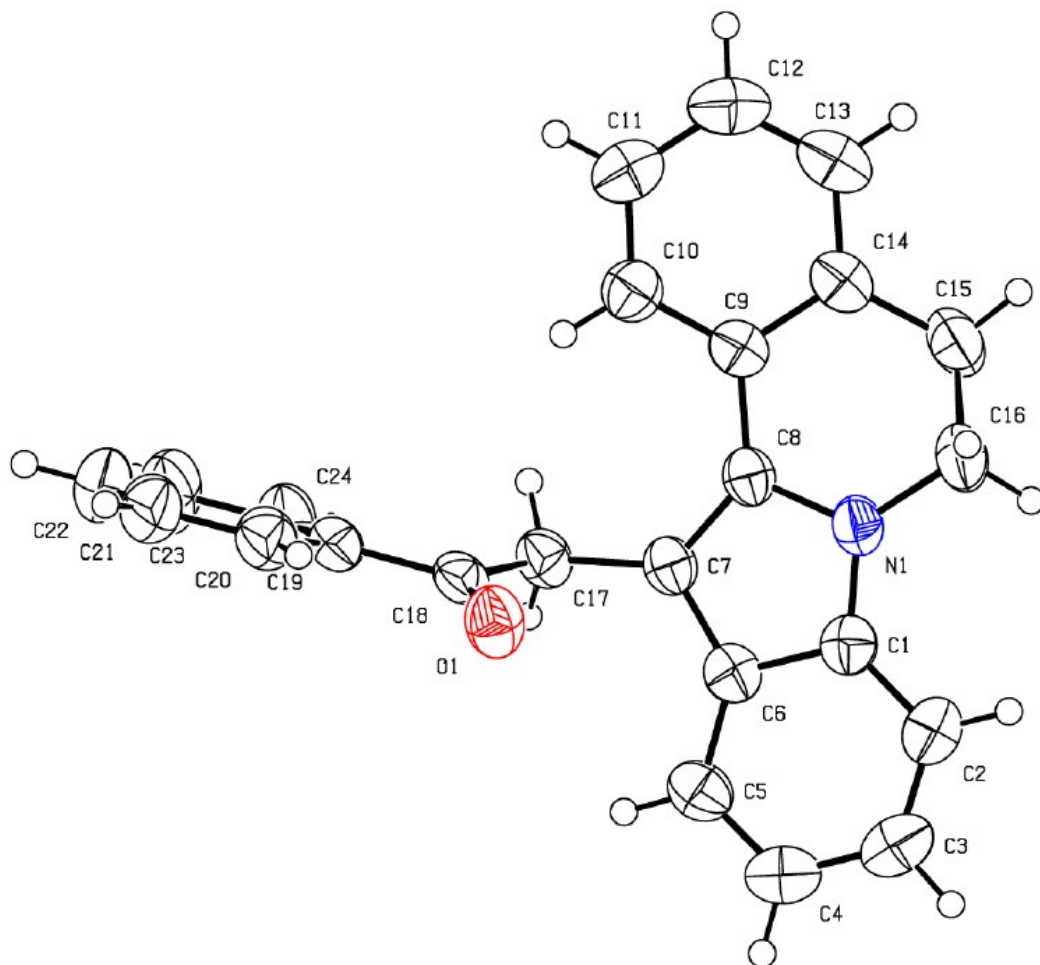
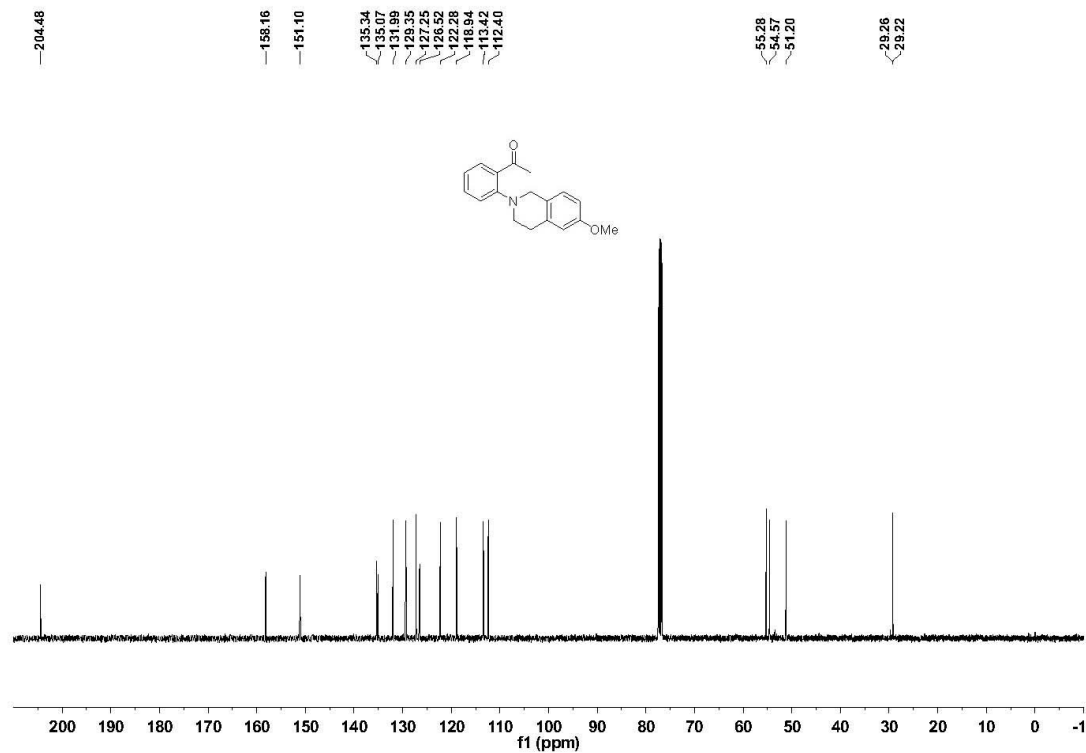
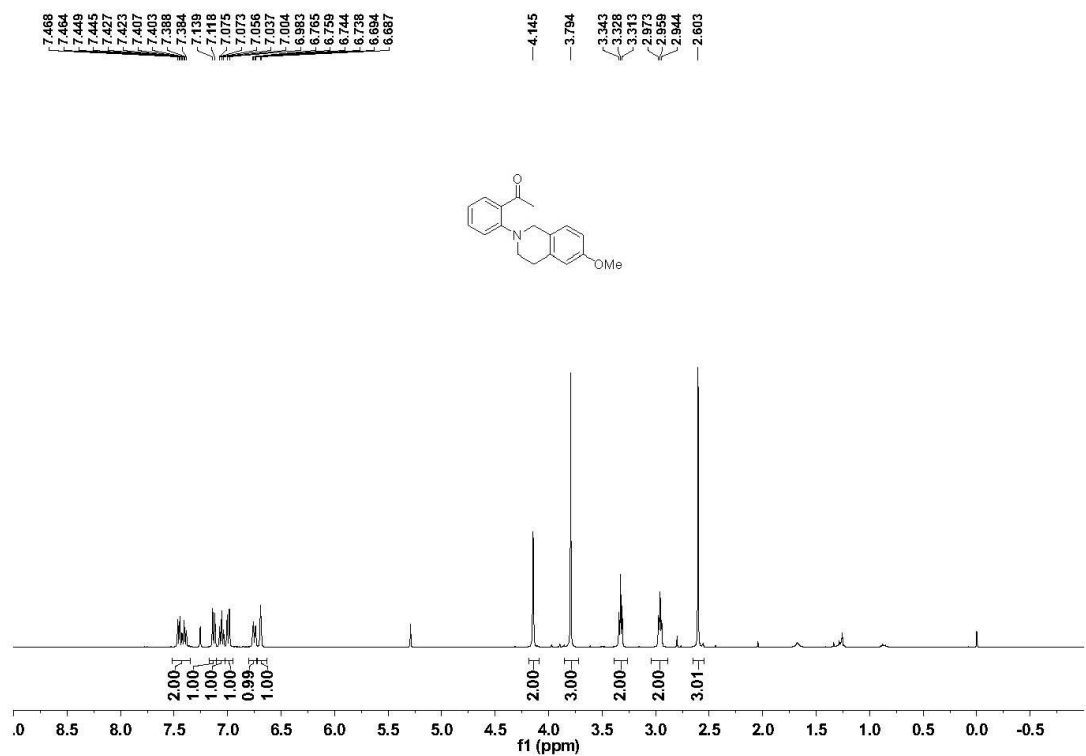


Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for CCDC 1480927.

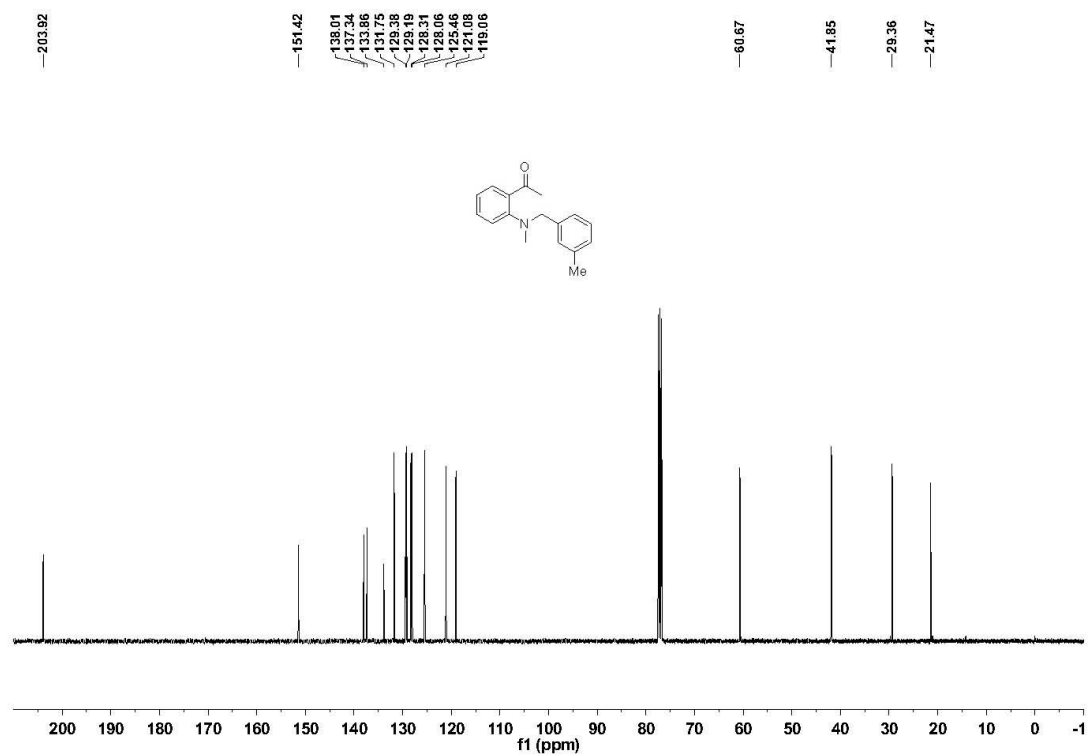
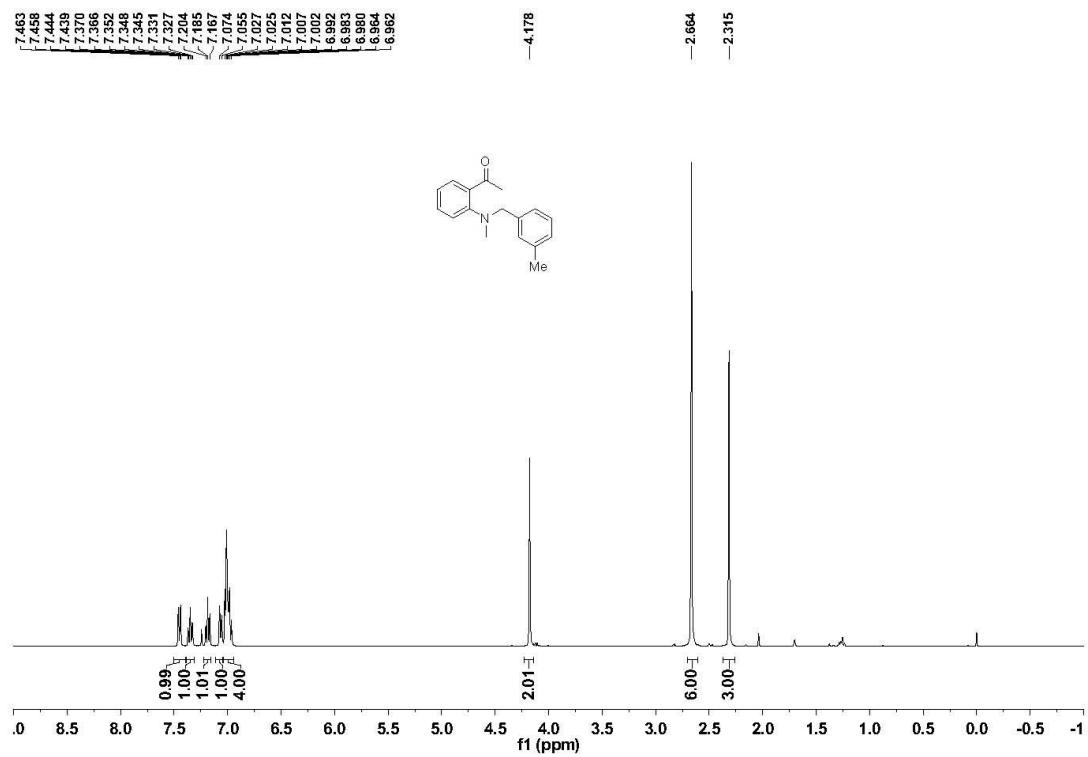
Identification code	a60105a	
Empirical formula	C ₂₄ H ₁₉ N O	
Formula weight	337.40	
Temperature	298(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	P 2 ₁ /c	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.246(4) Å	a = 90°
	b = 21.733(10) Å	b = 99.084(6)°
	c = 8.690(4) Å	g = 90°
Volume	1724.3(14) Å ³	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.300 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.079 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	712	
Crystal size	0.700 x 0.080 x 0.050 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	1.874 to 26.992°.	
Index ranges	-11 ≤ h ≤ 11, -27 ≤ k ≤ 21, -10 ≤ l ≤ 10	
Reflections collected	8321	
Independent reflections	3697 [R(int) = 0.0695]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.6 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	1.000 and 0.420	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Data / restraints / parameters	3697 / 0 / 236	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	0.931	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R ₁ = 0.0553, wR ₂ = 0.1231	
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0919, wR ₂ = 0.1342	
Extinction coefficient	0.042(3)	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.237 and -0.227 e.Å ⁻³	

F: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra of Substrates

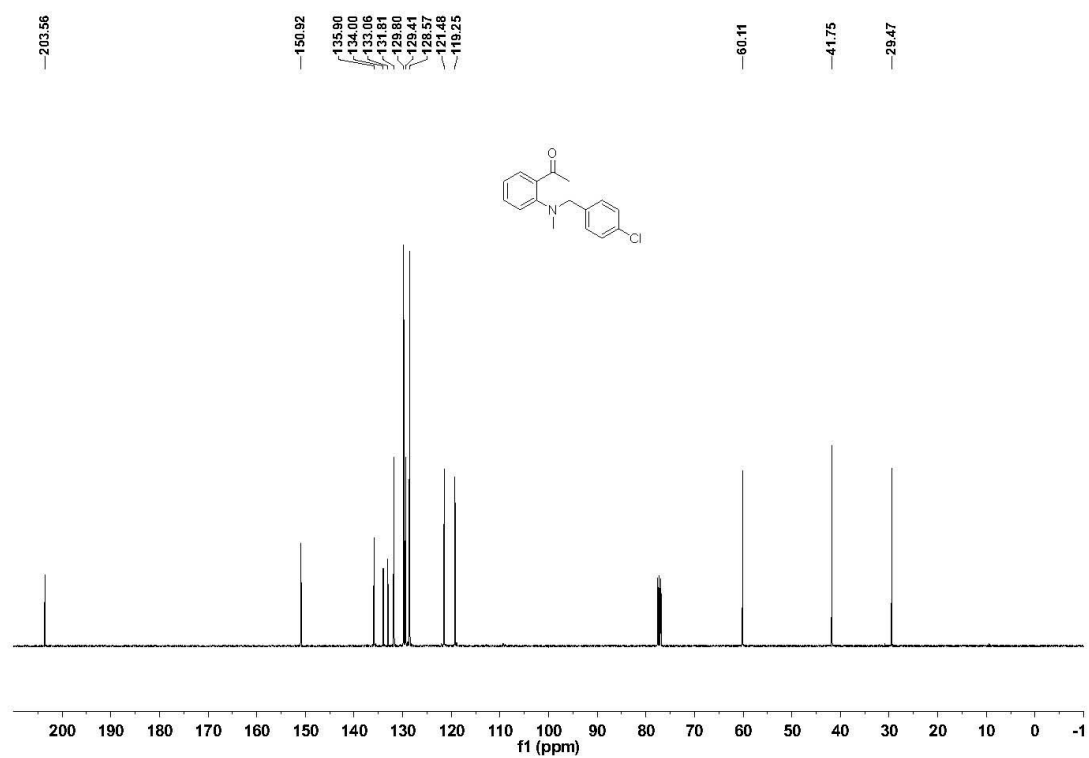
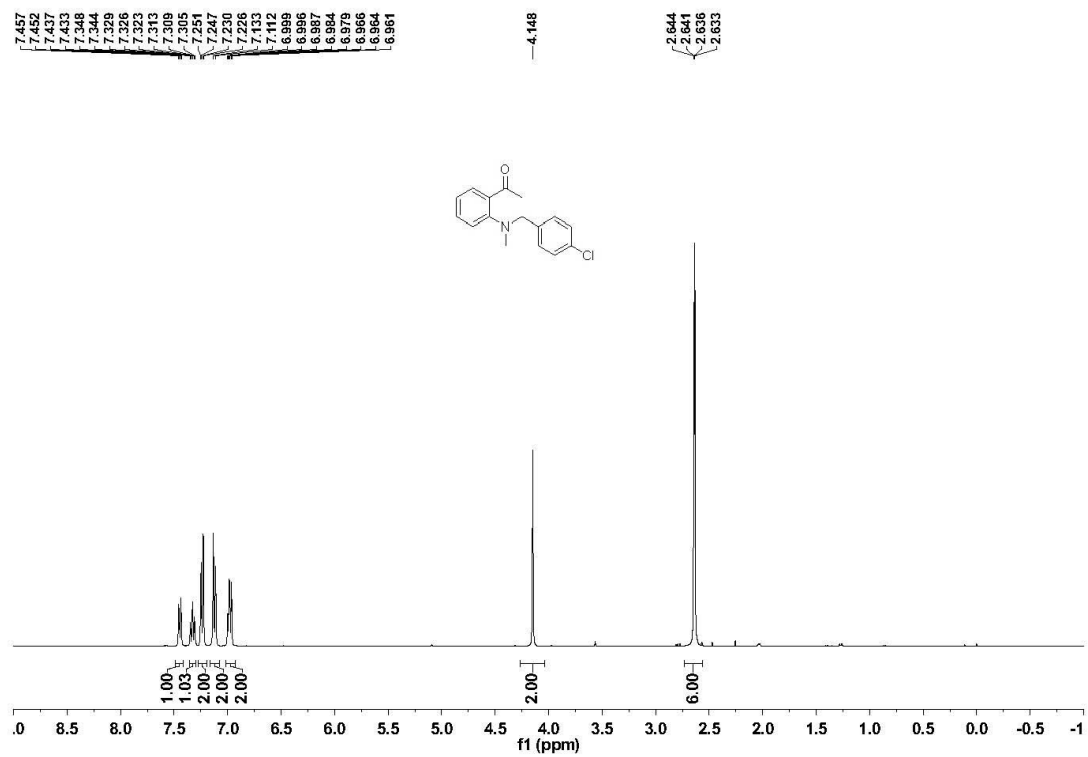
Compound 1c



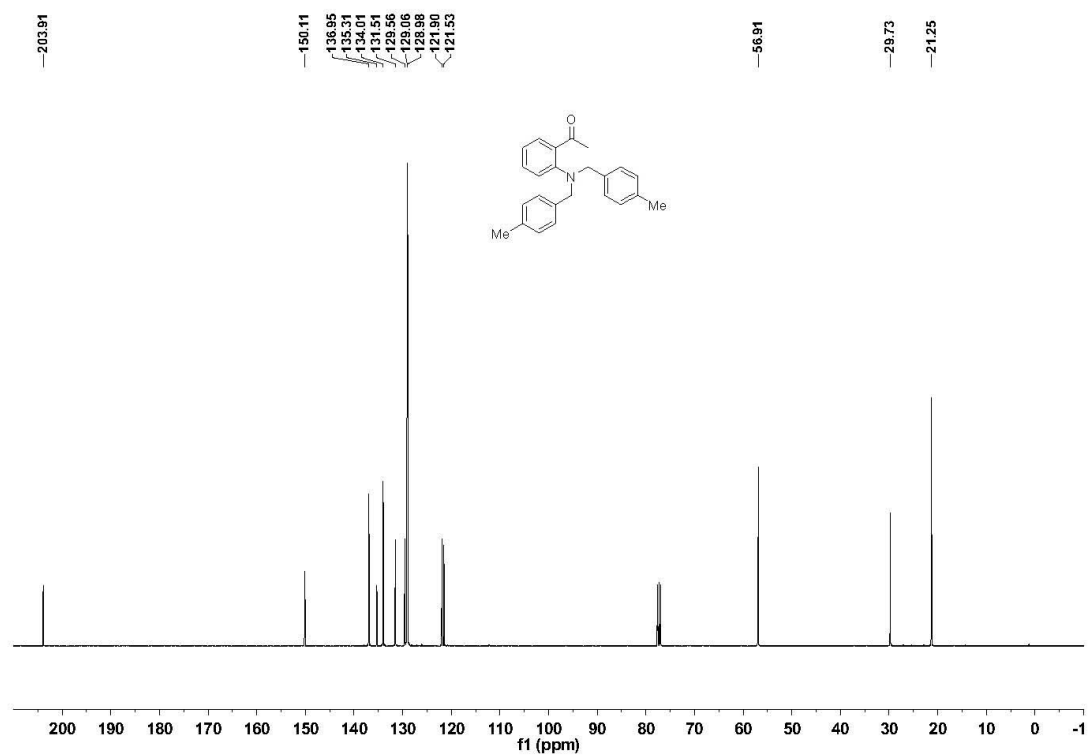
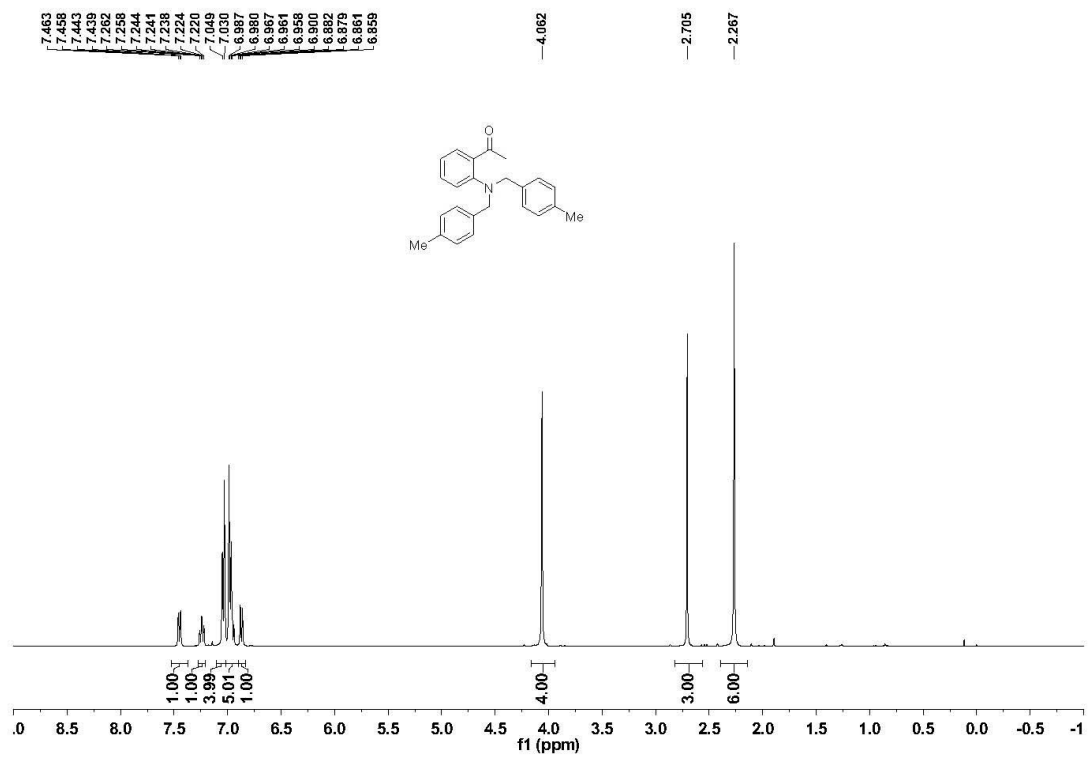
Compound 1m



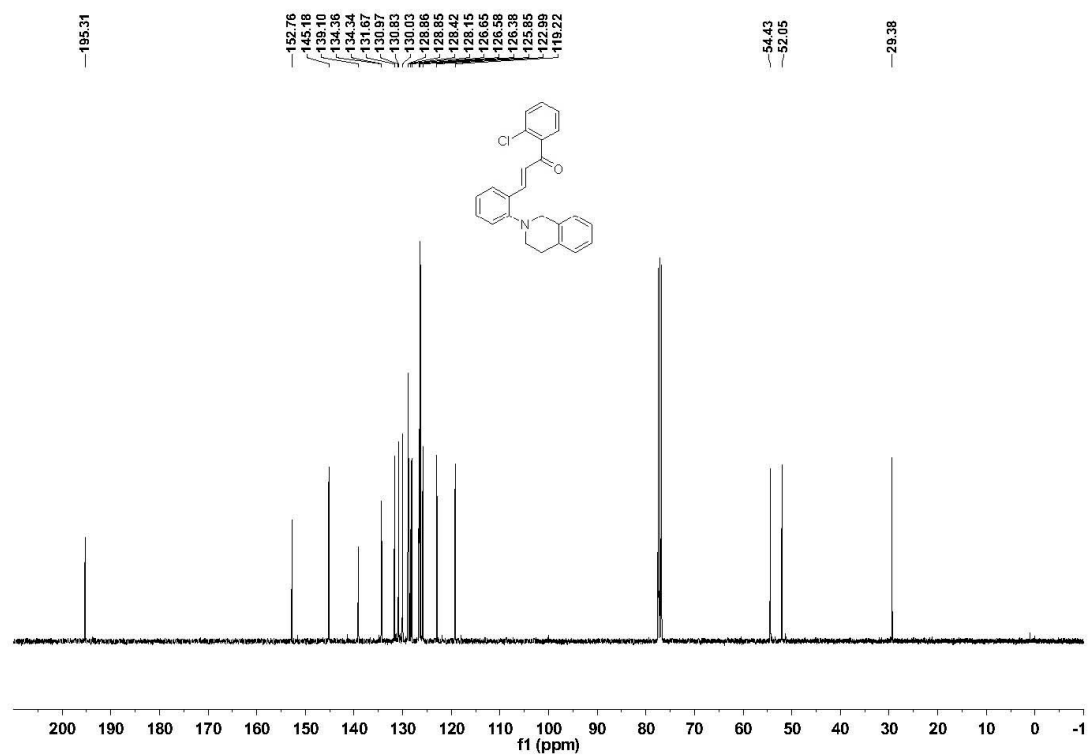
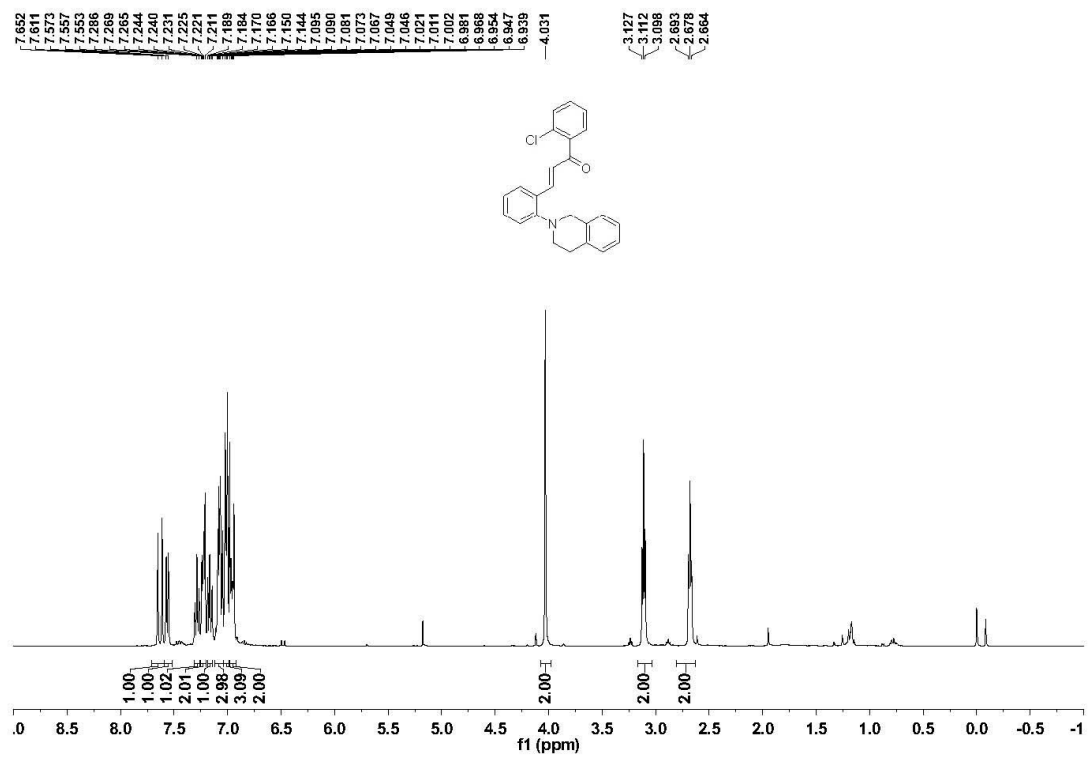
Compound 1n



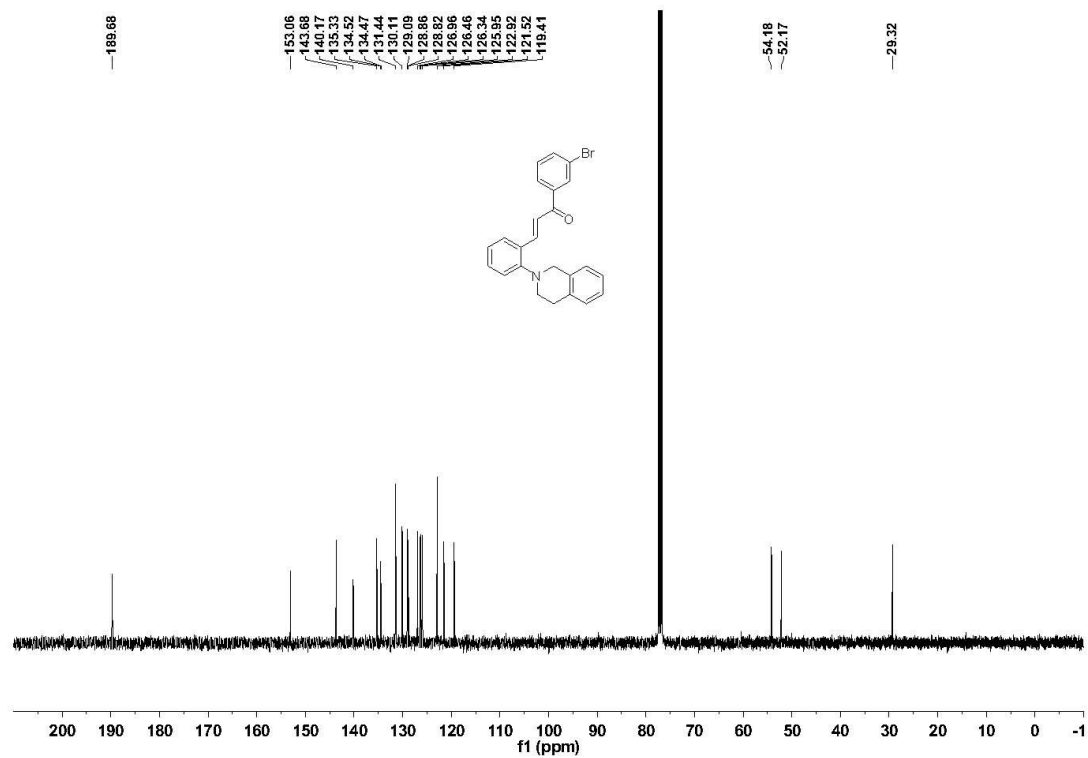
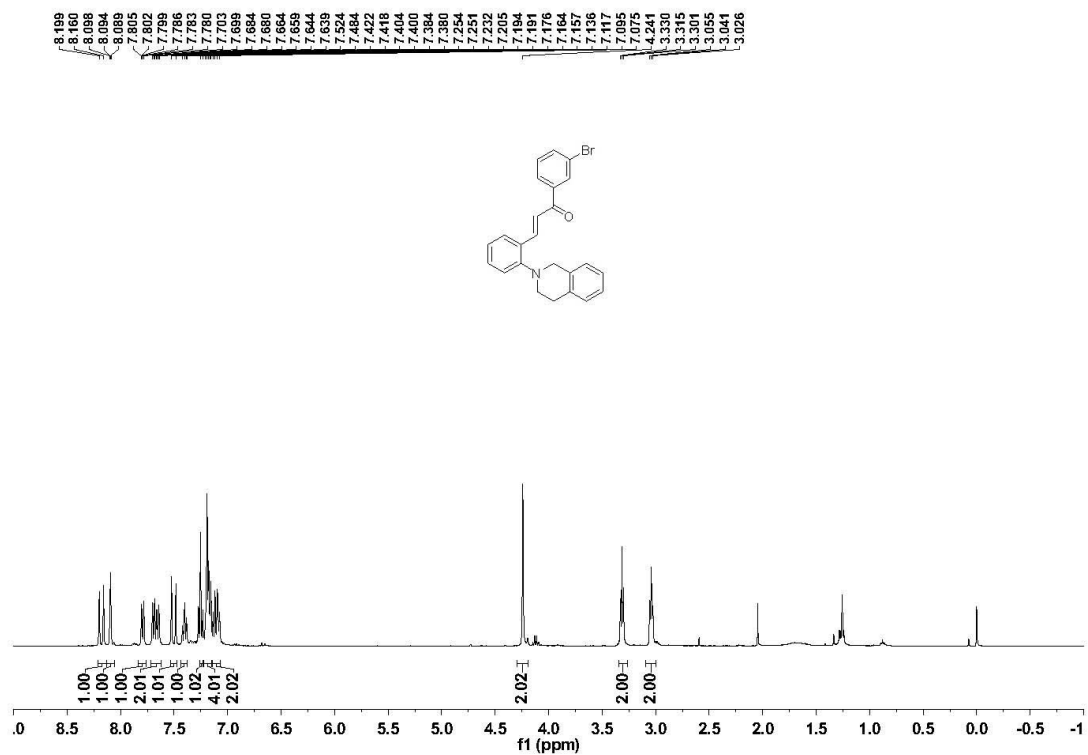
Compound 1q



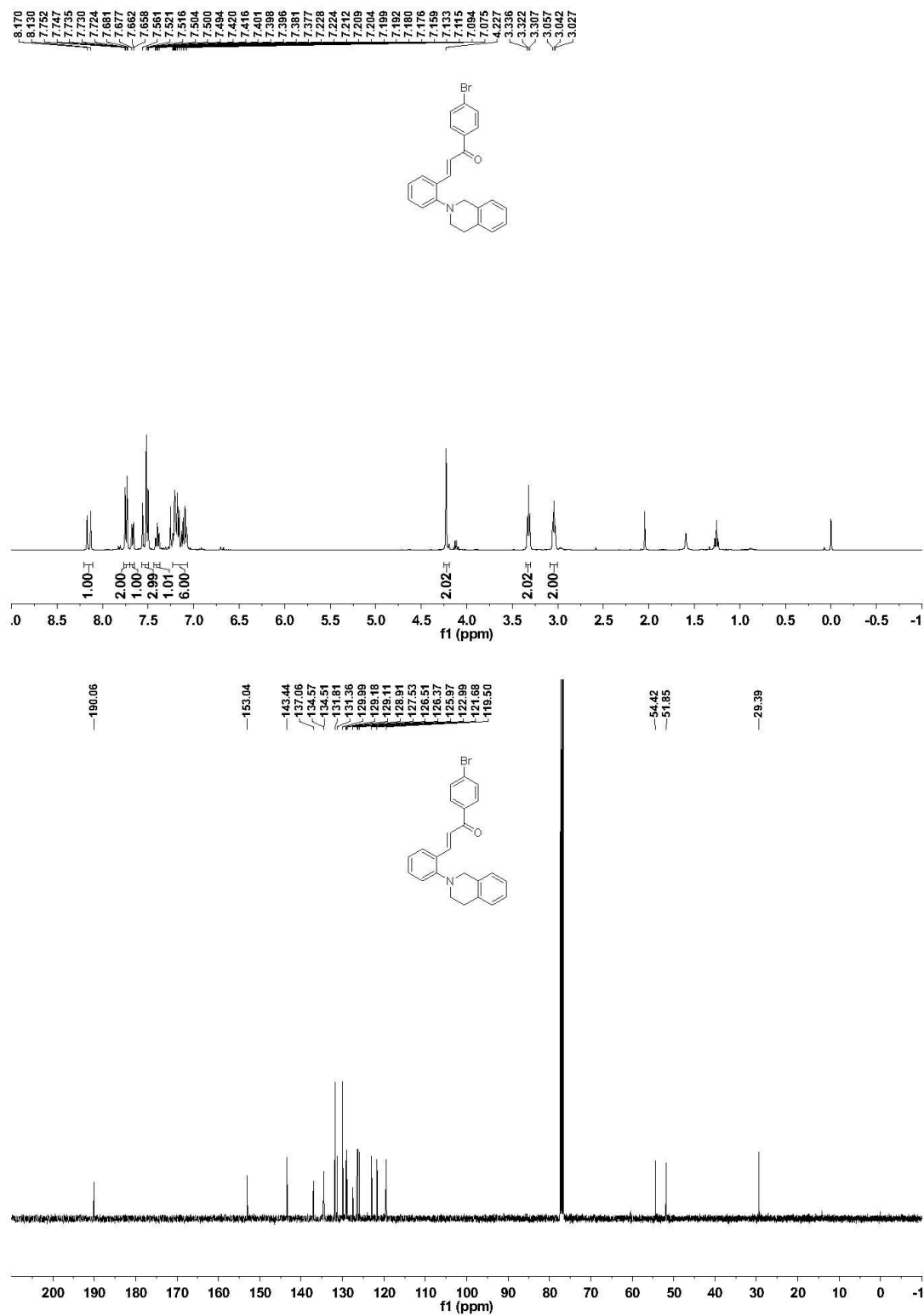
Compound 3b



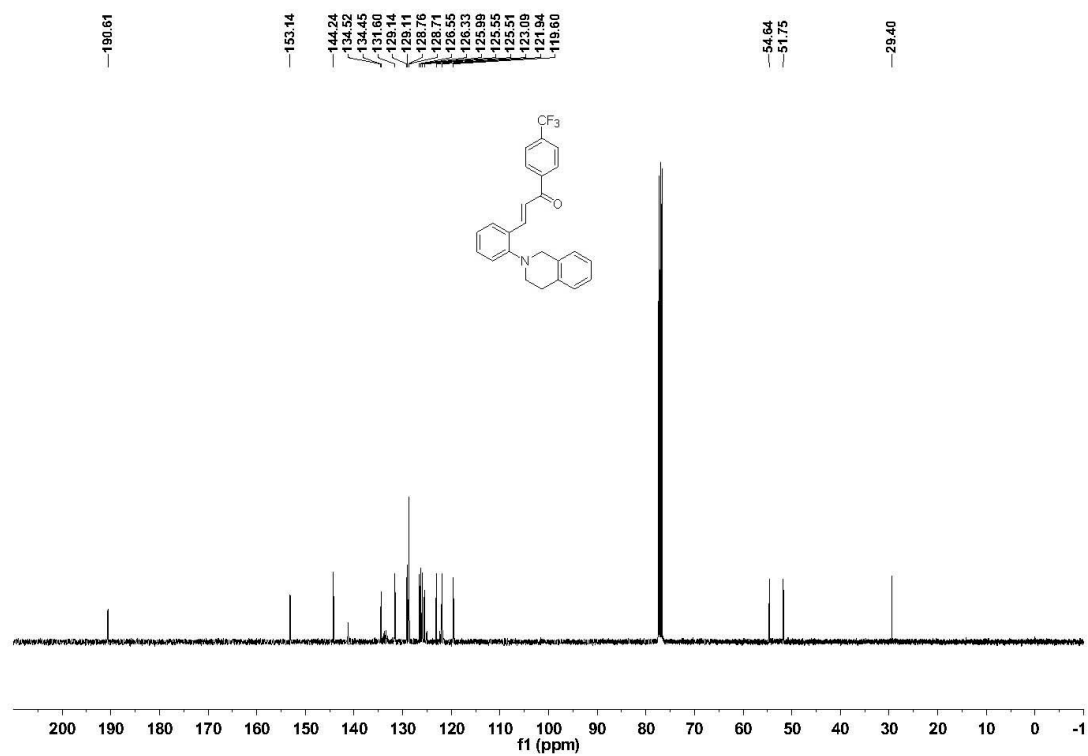
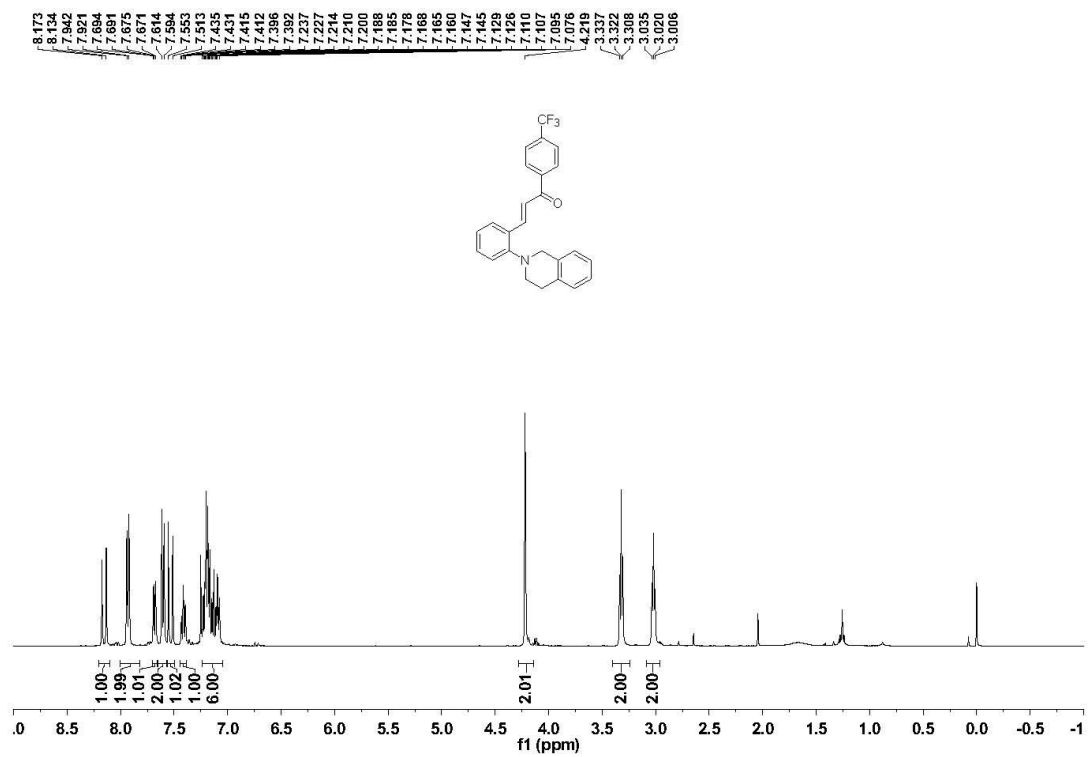
Compound 3c



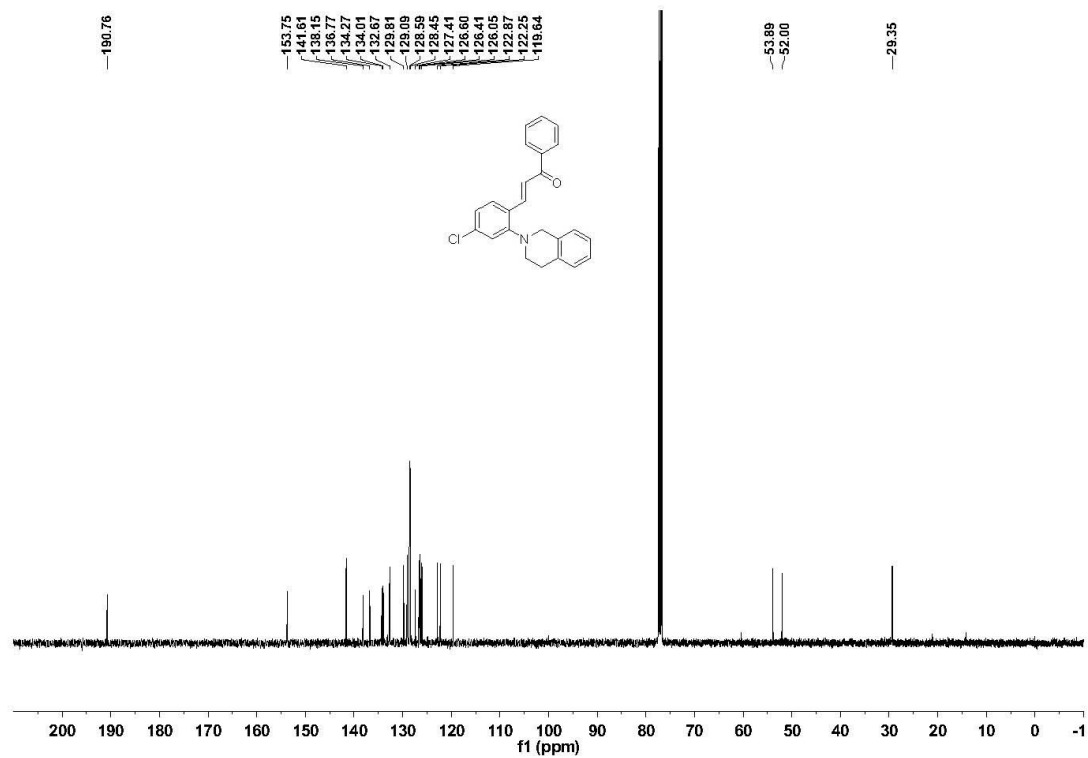
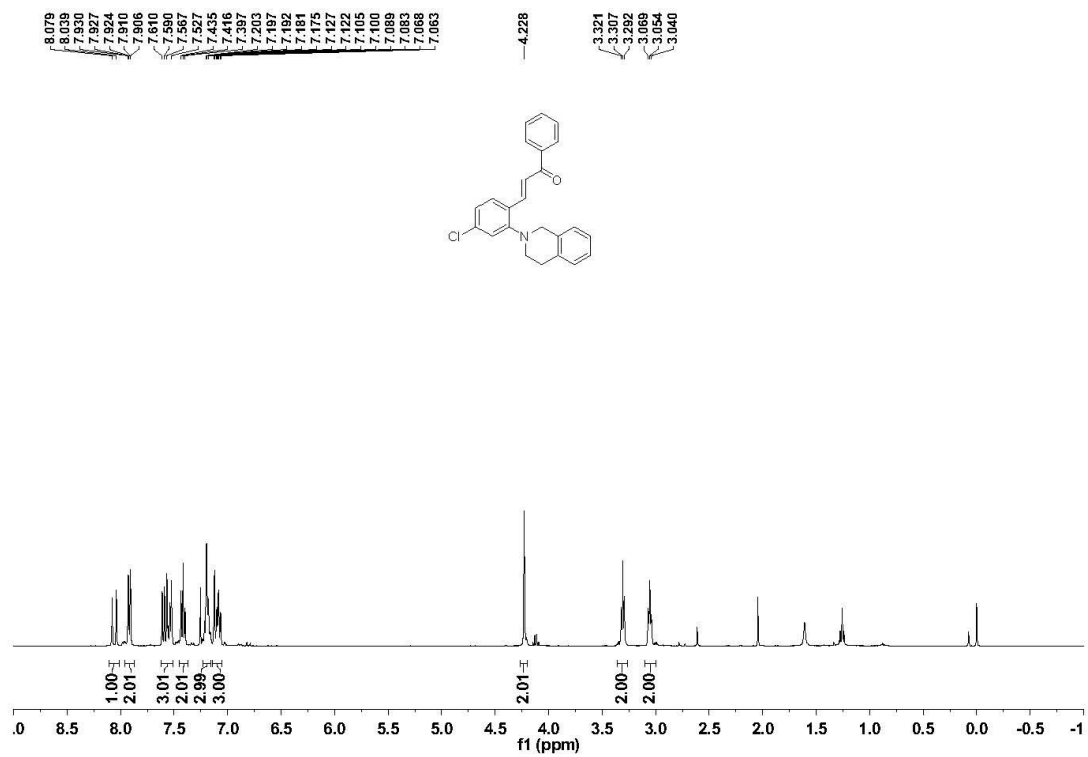
Compound 3d



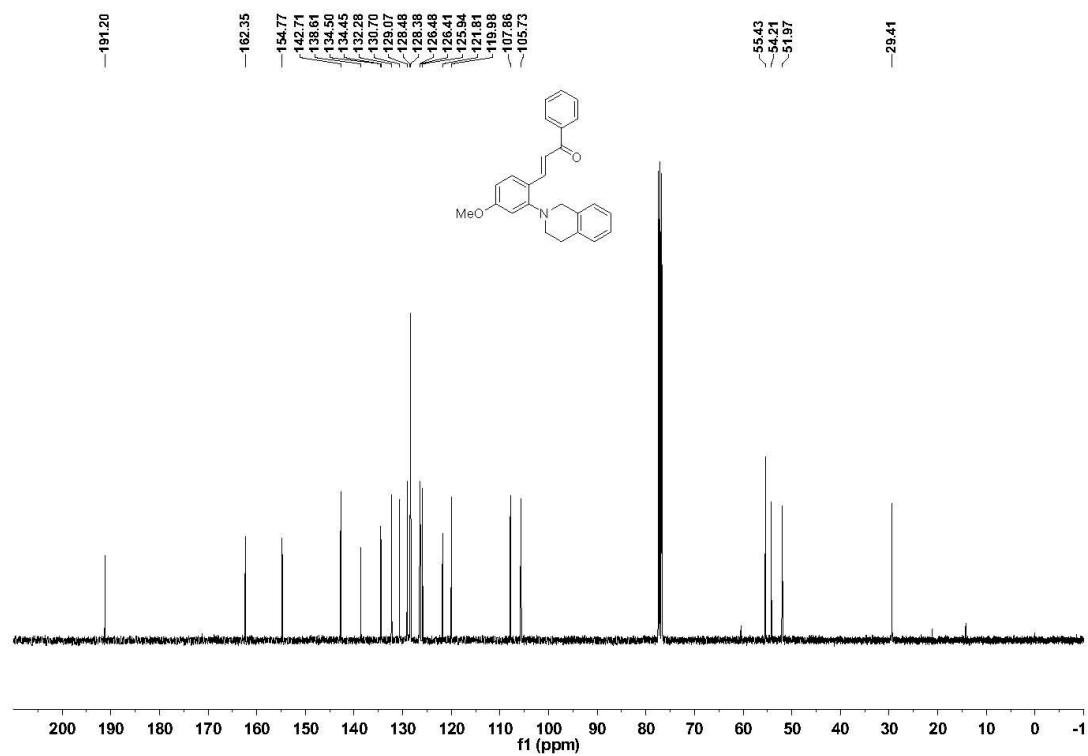
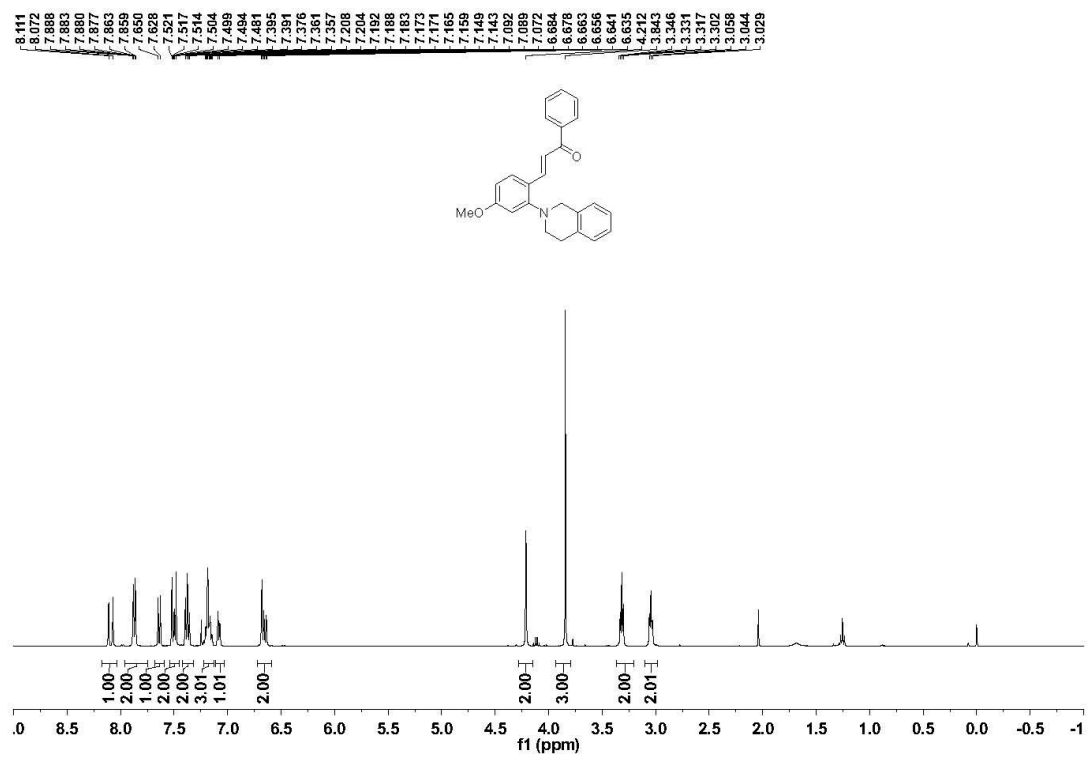
Compound 3e



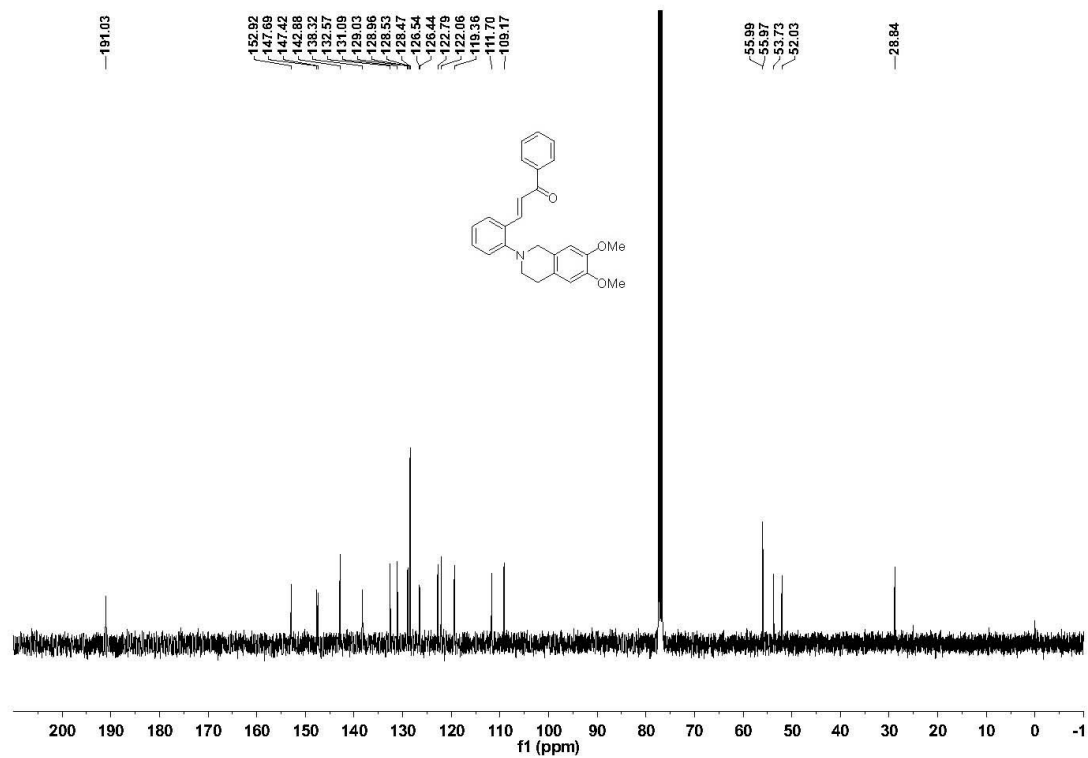
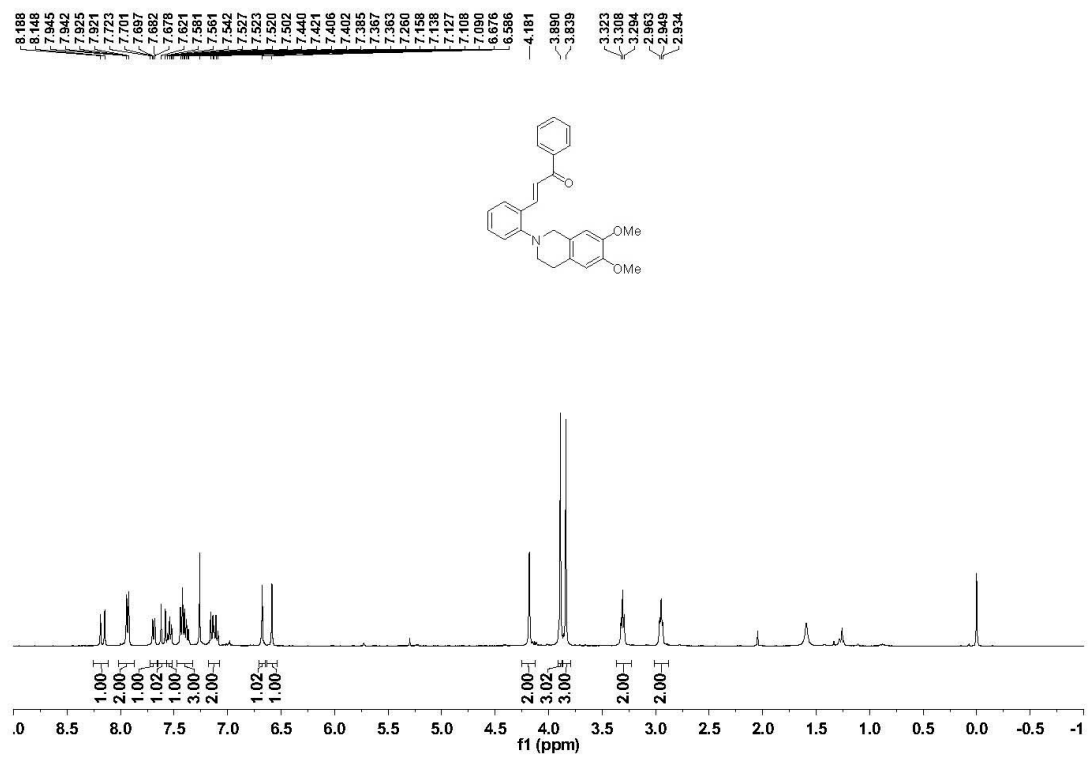
Compound 3f



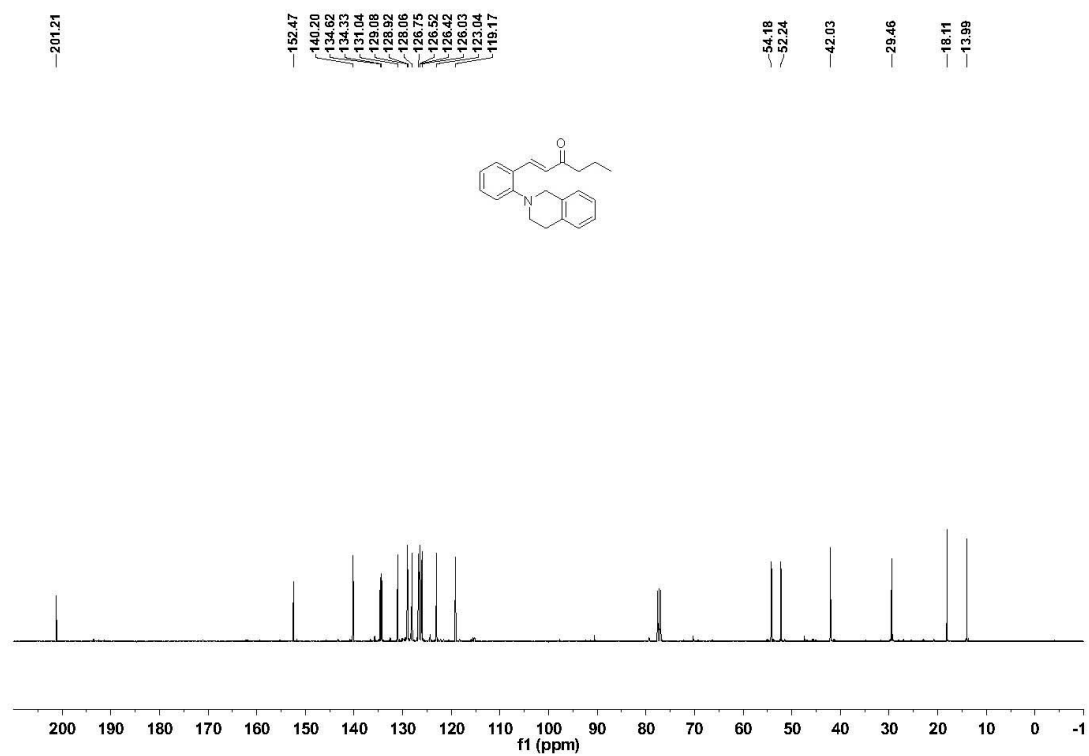
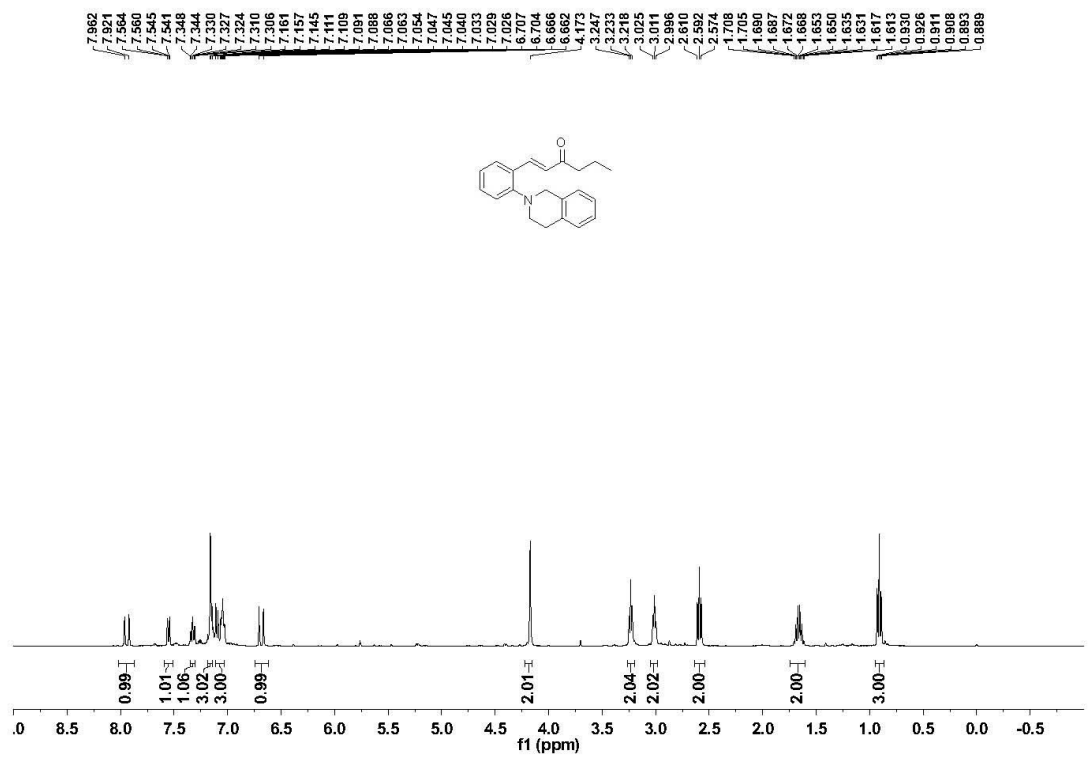
Compound 3g



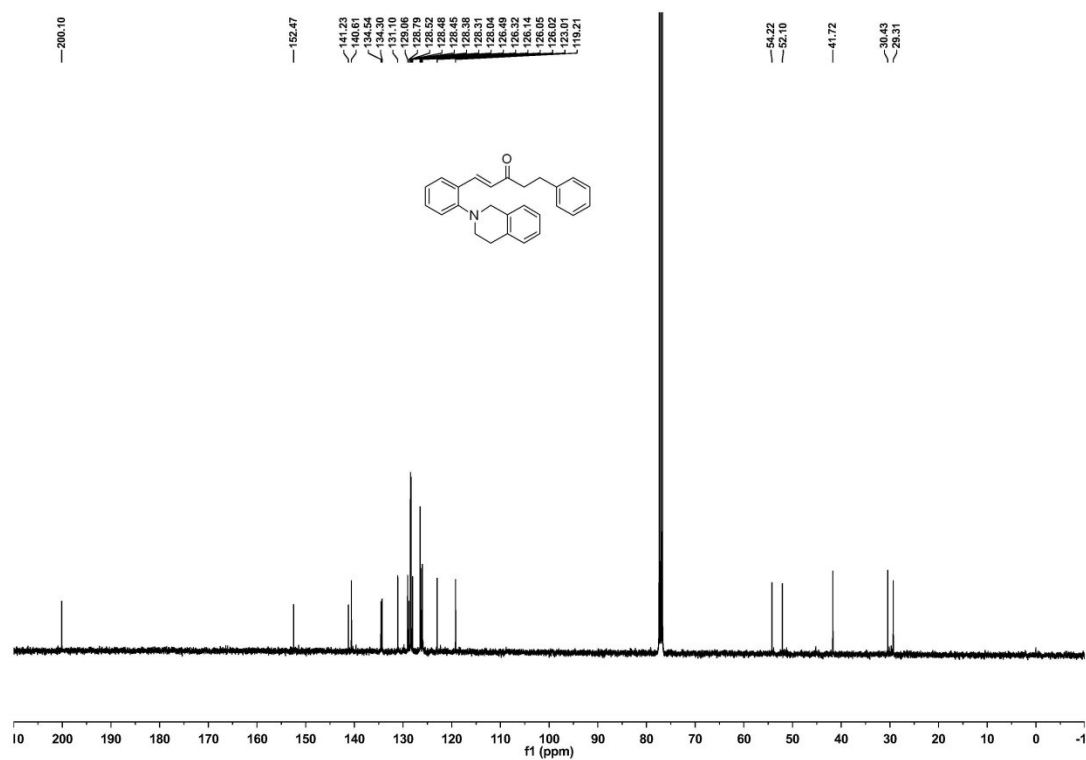
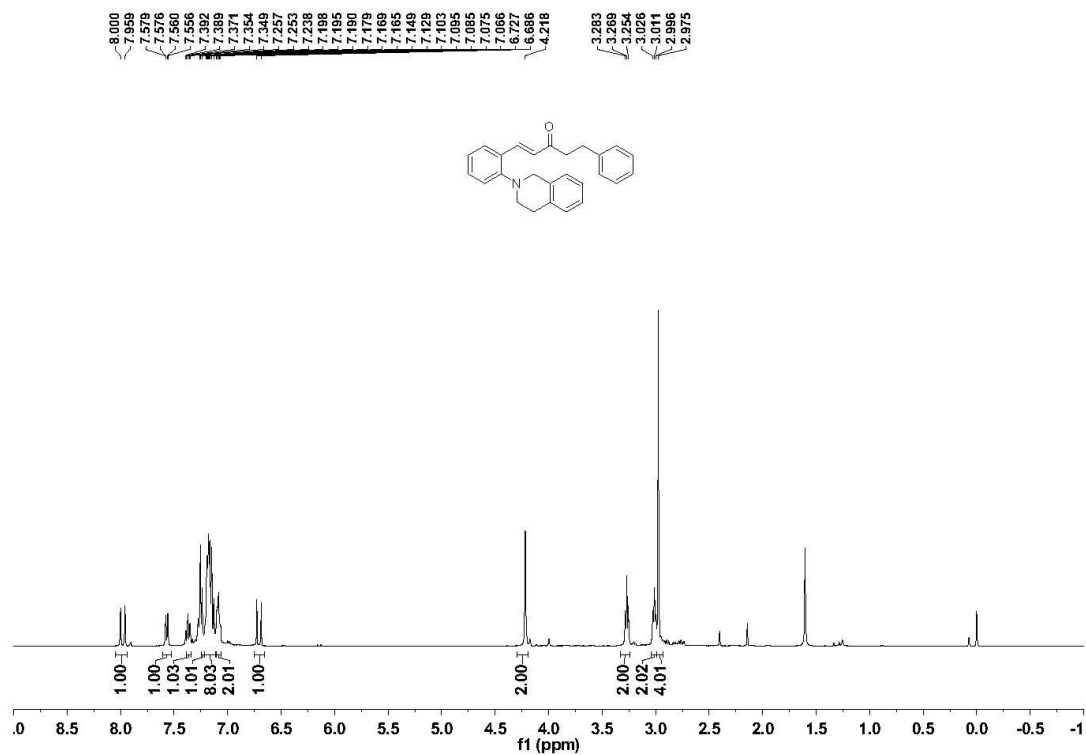
Compound 3h



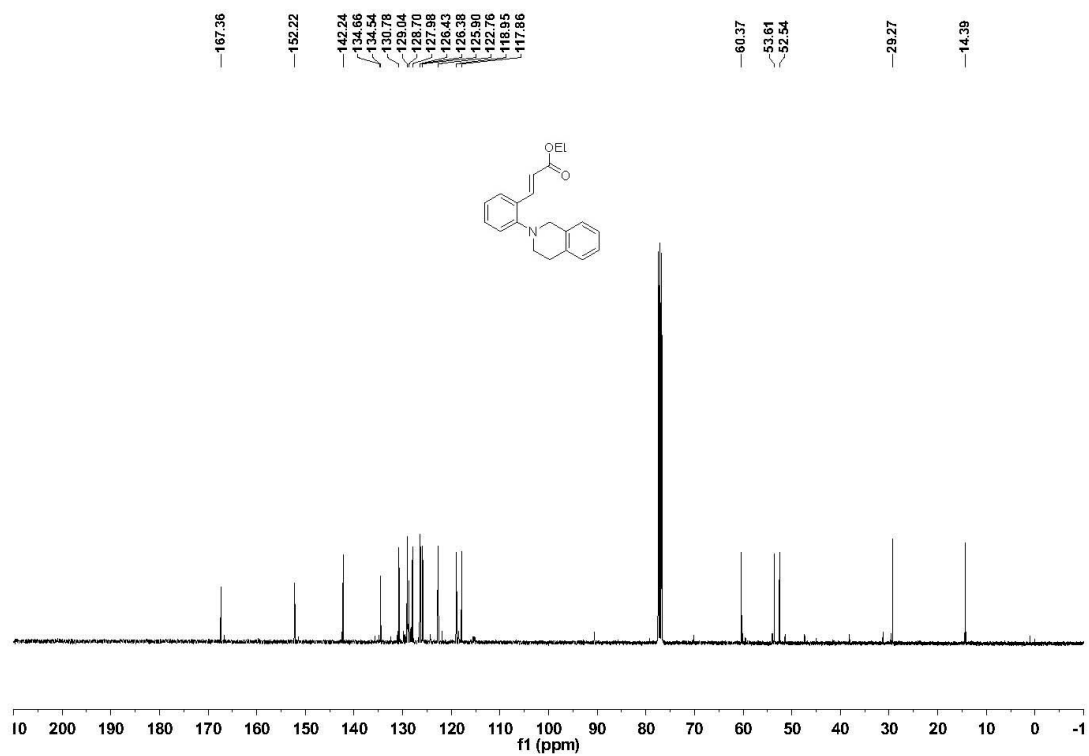
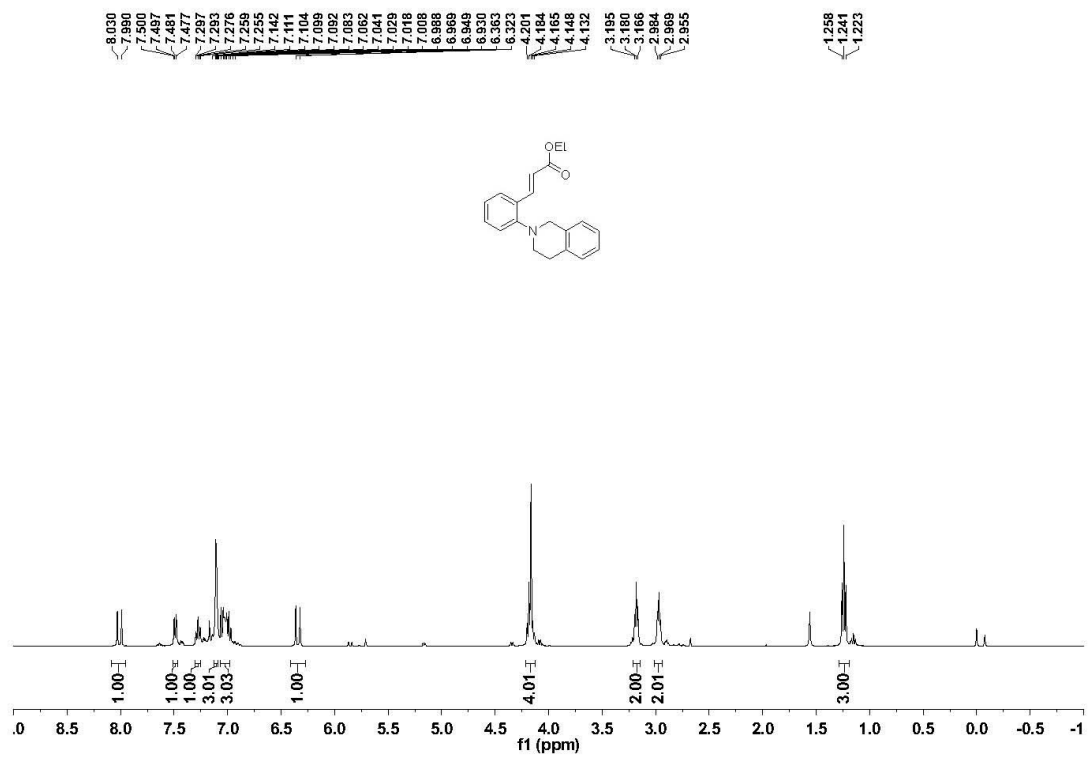
Compound 3j



Compound 3k

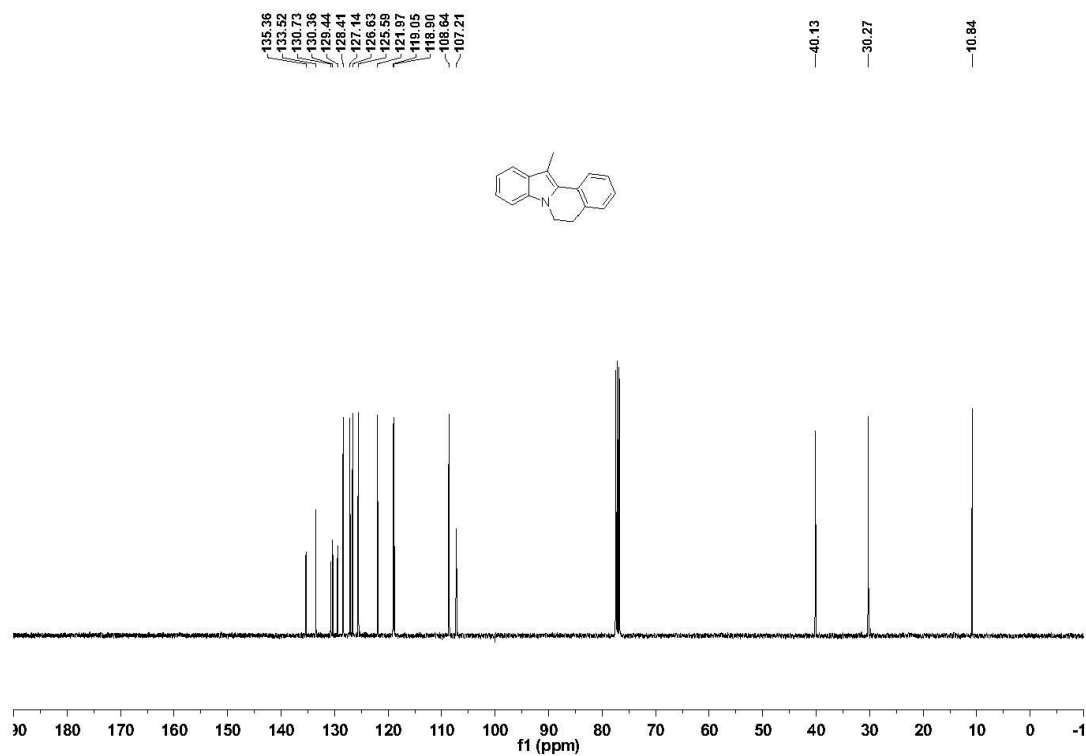
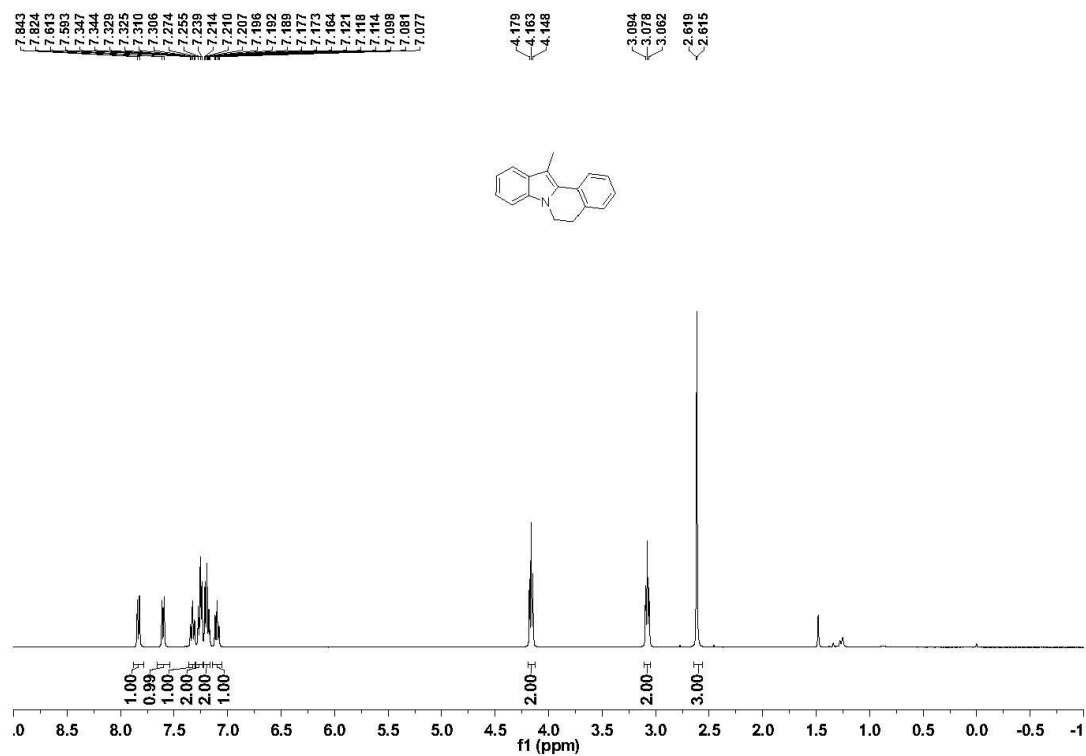


Compound 31

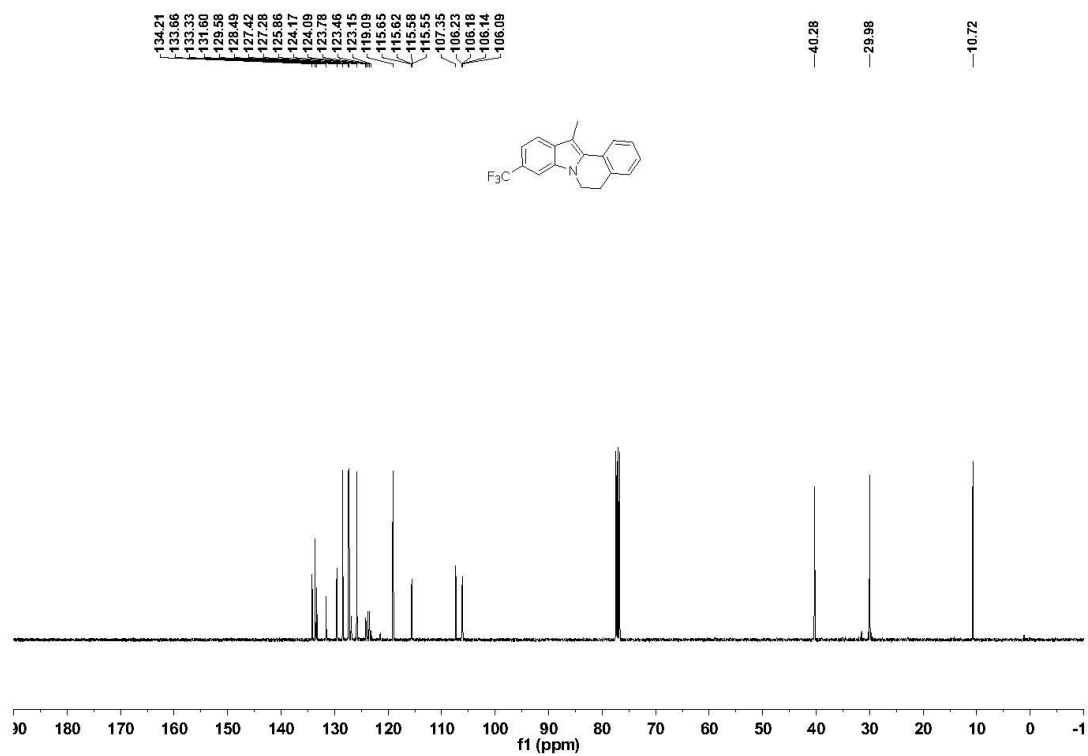
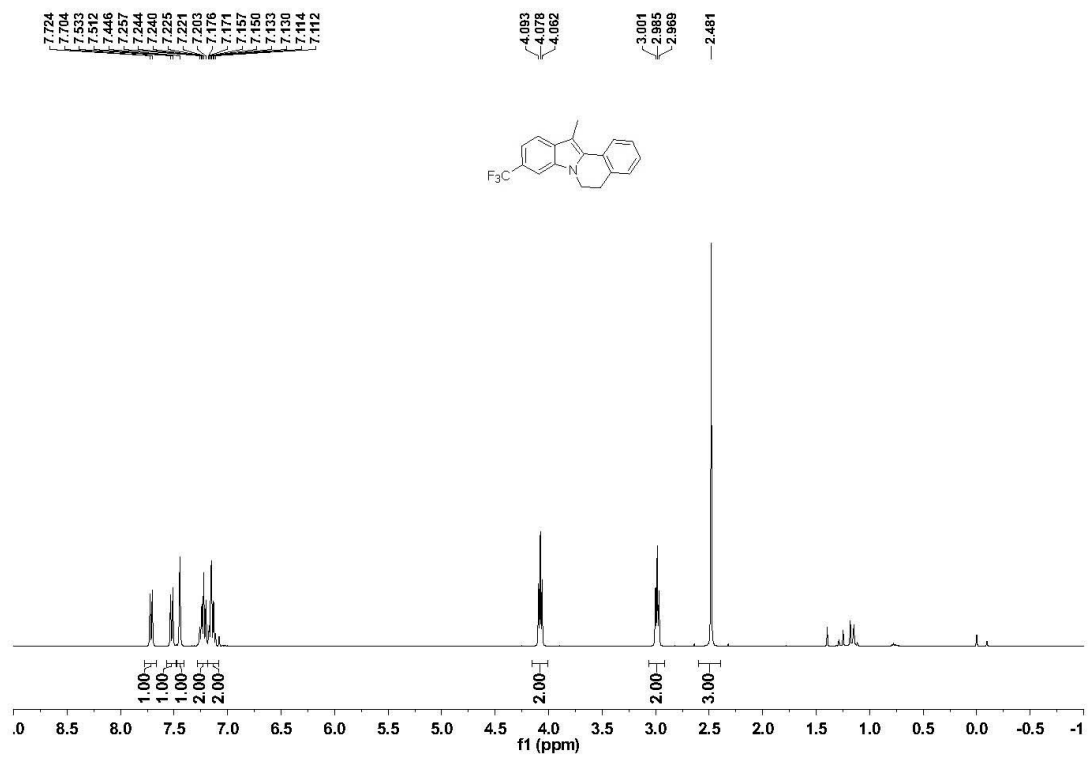


G: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra of Products

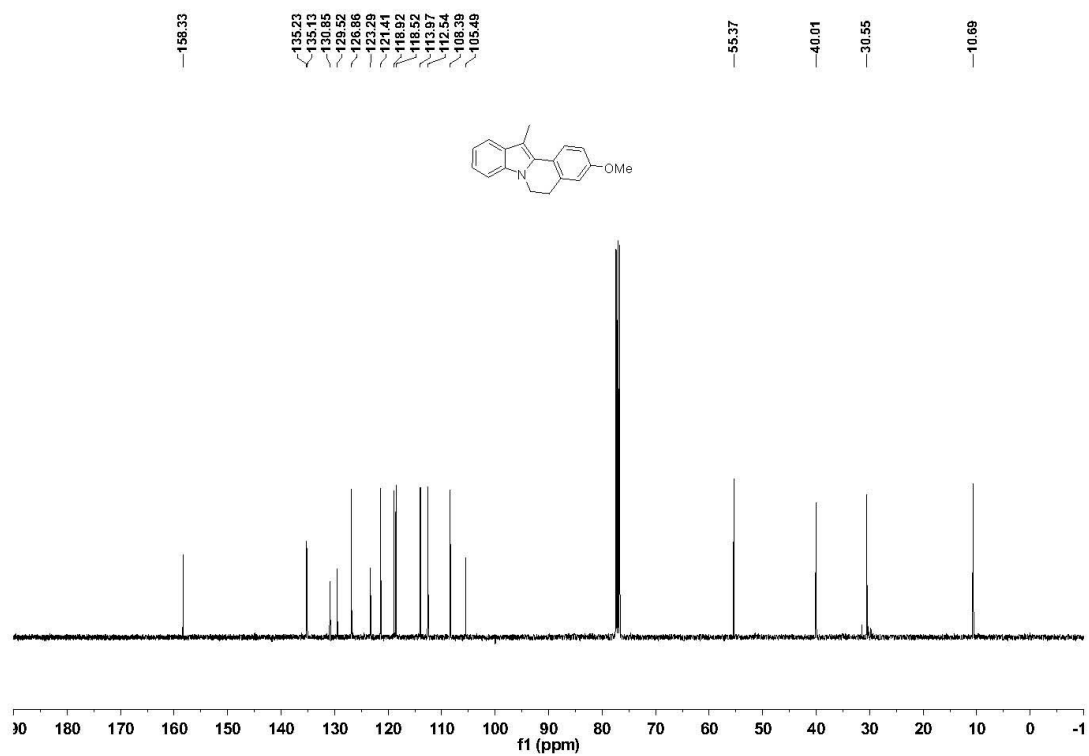
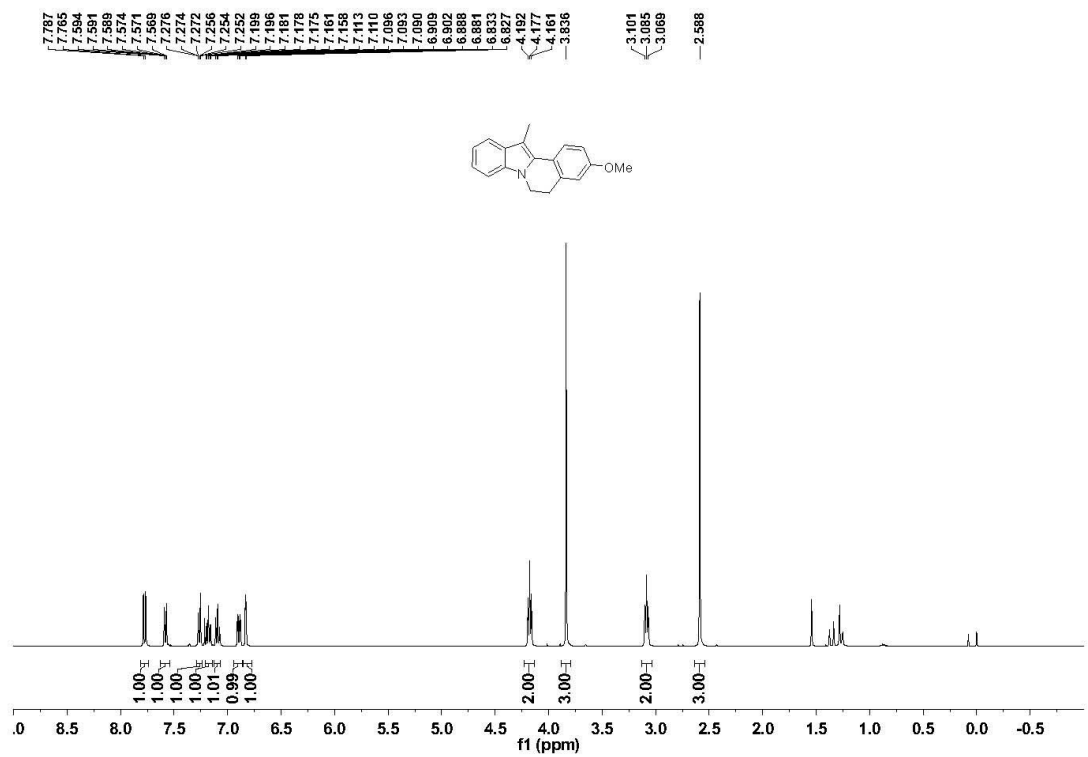
Compound 2a



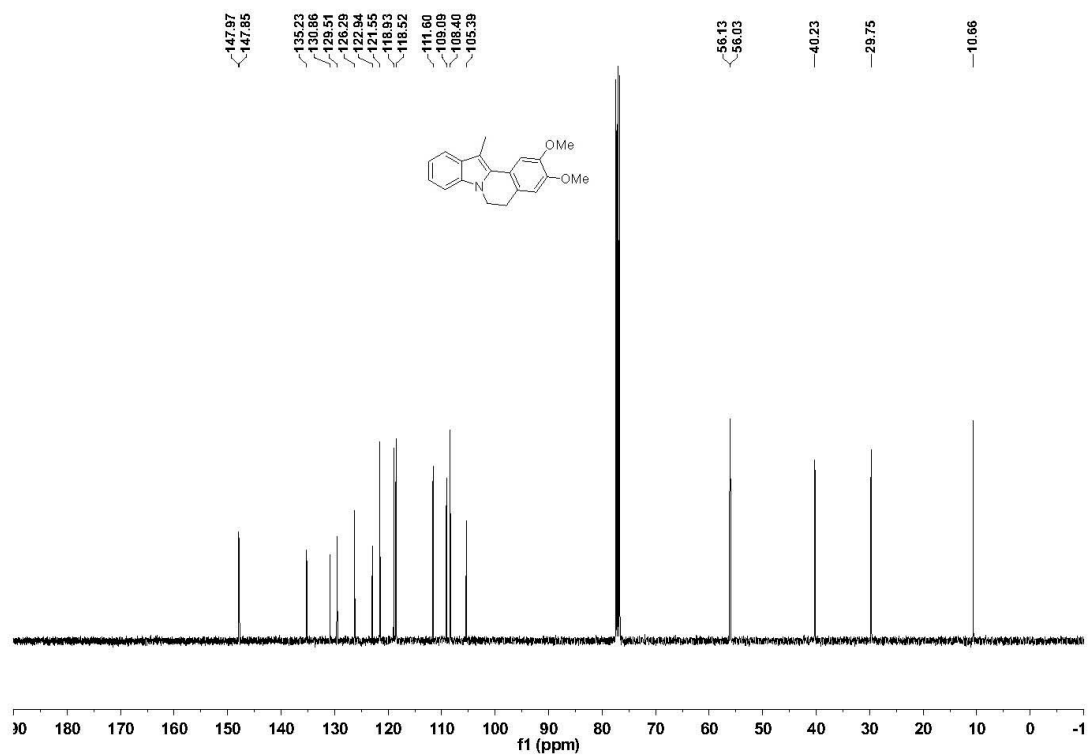
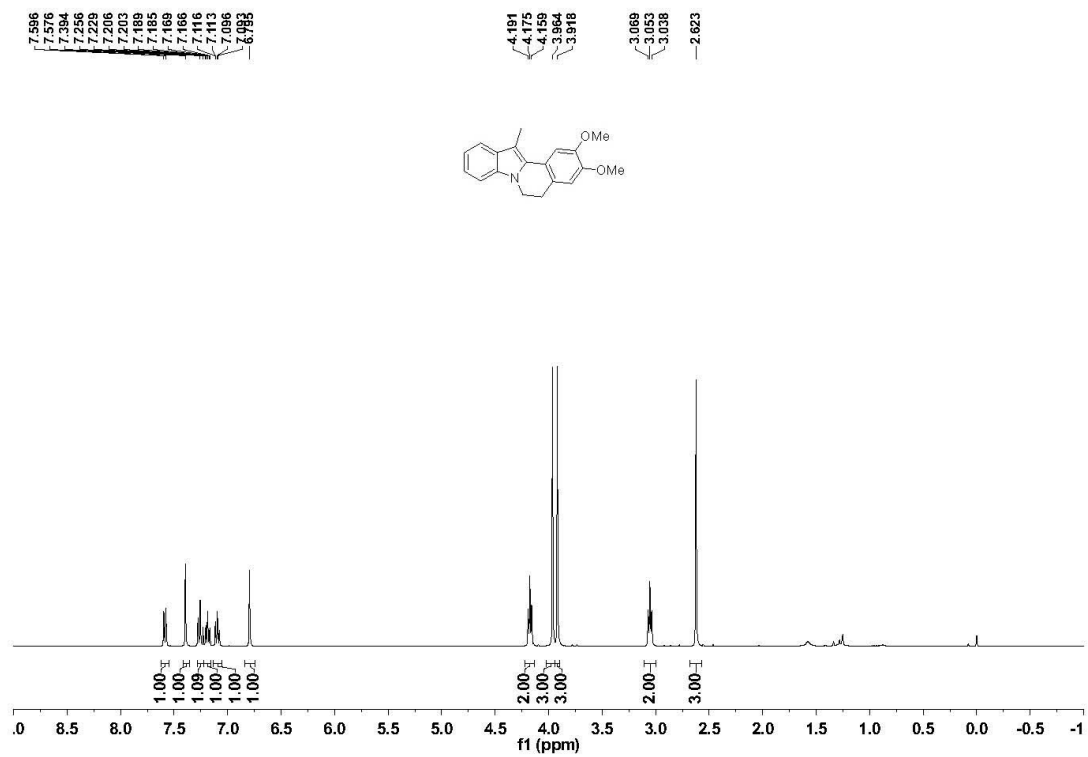
Compound 2b



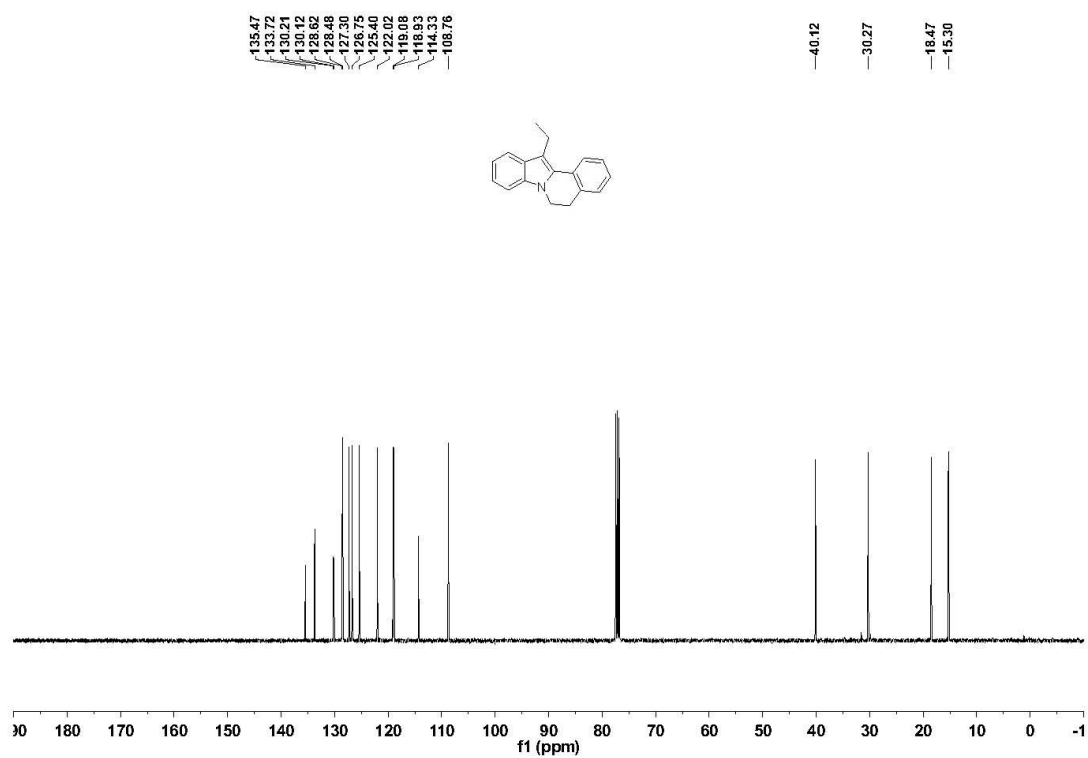
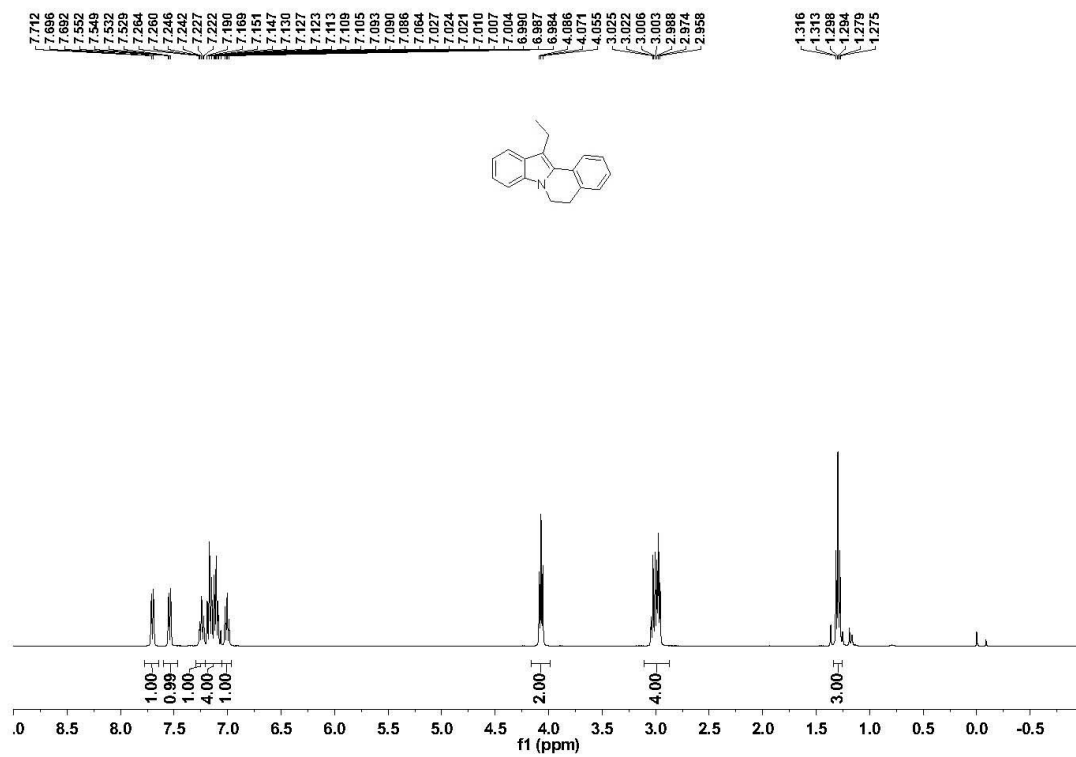
Compound 2c



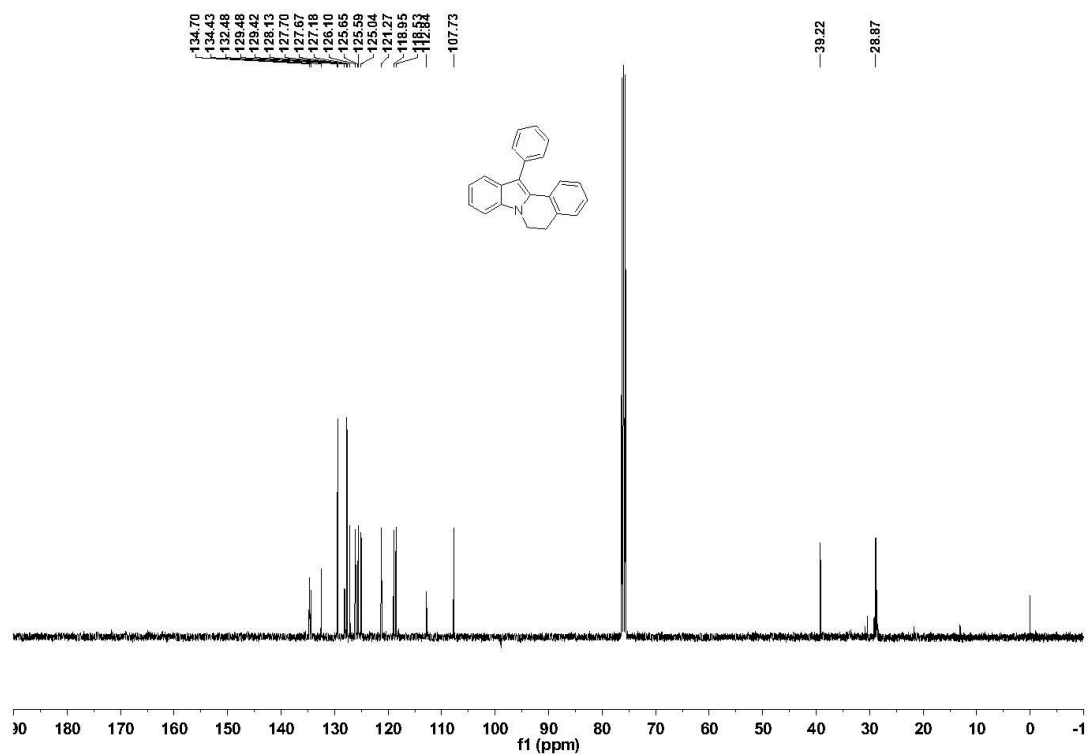
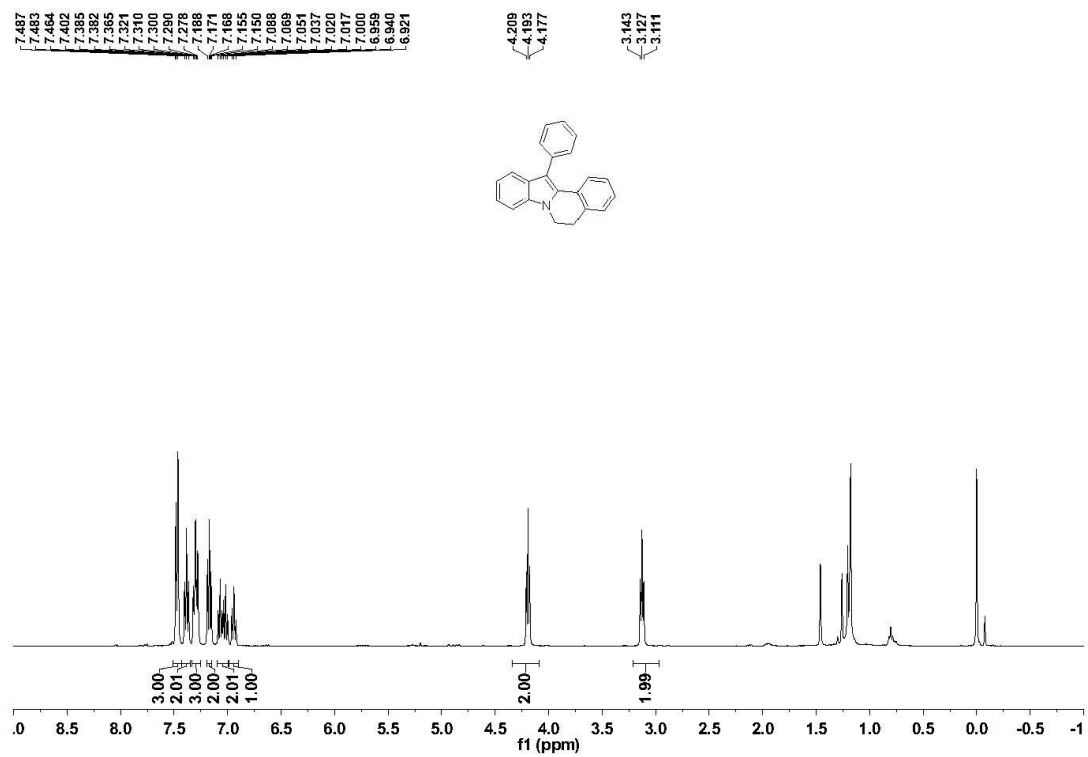
Compound 2d



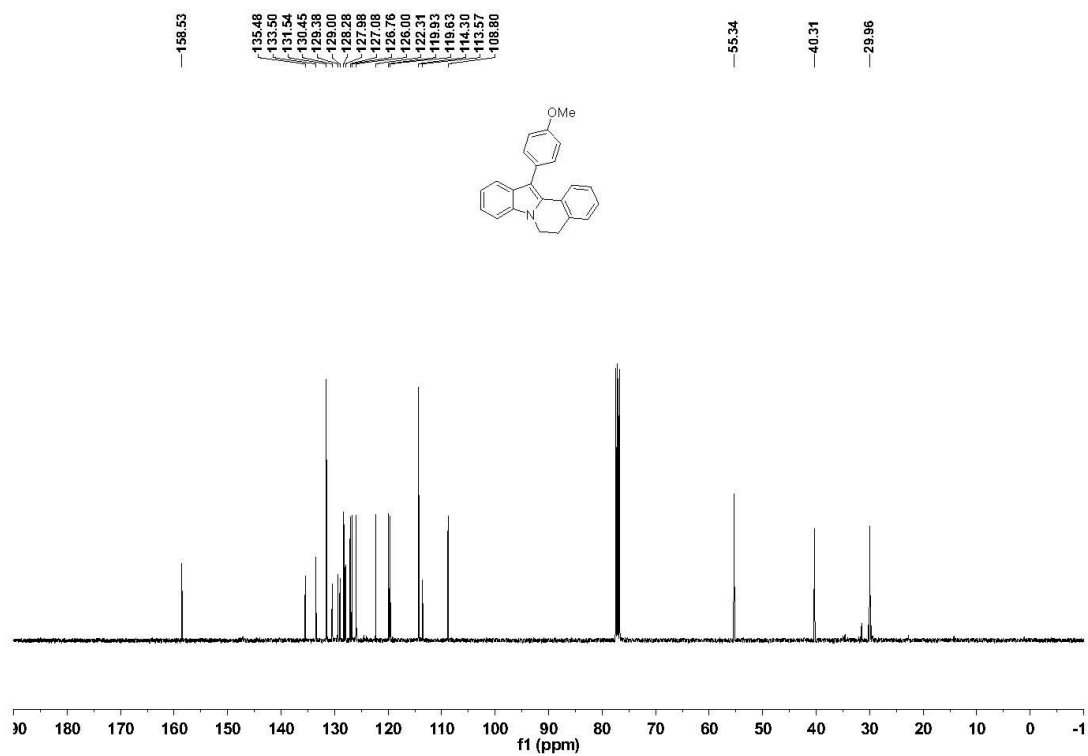
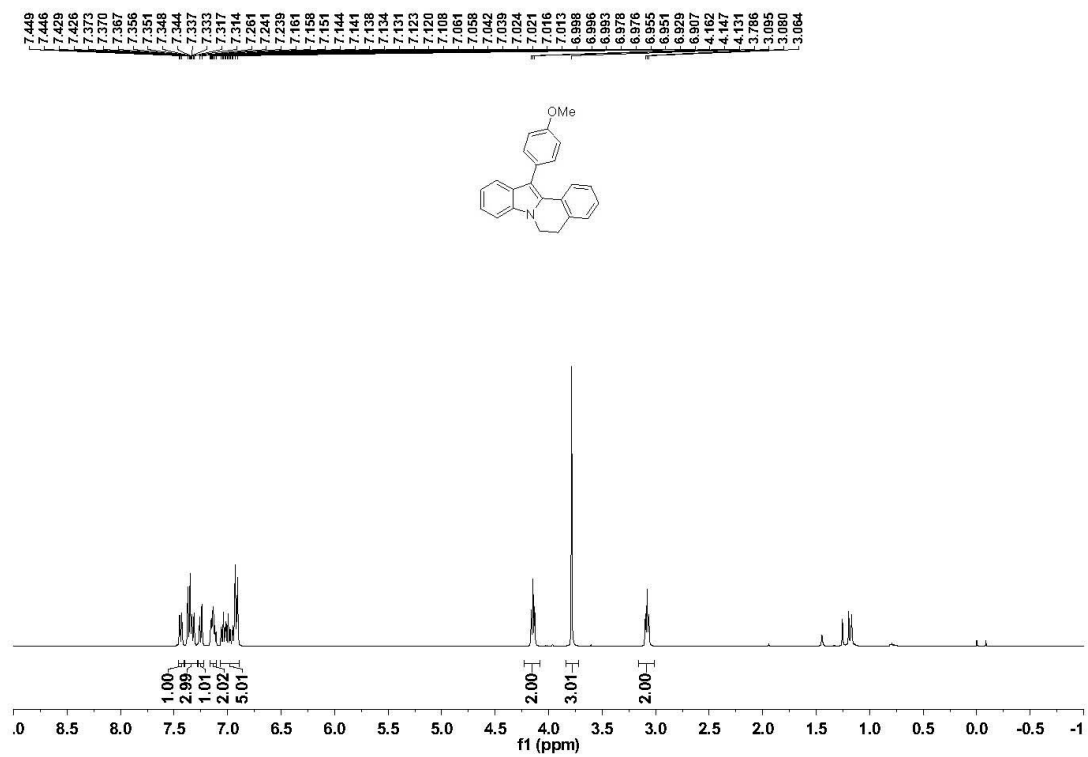
Compound 2e



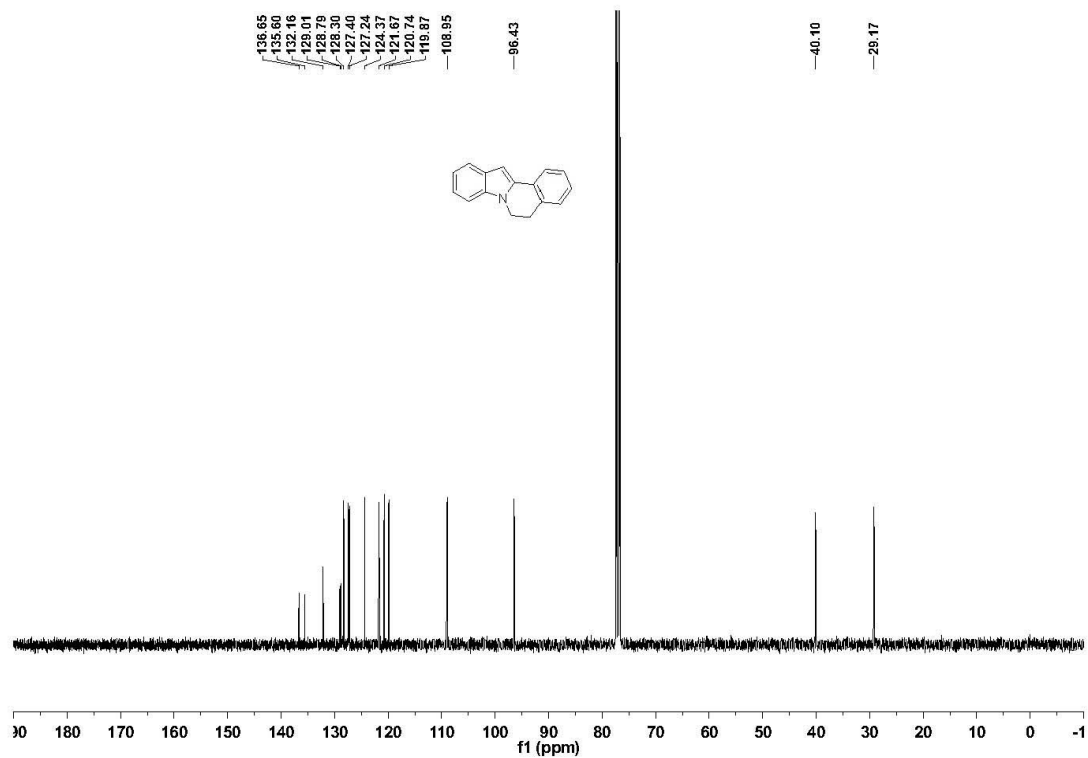
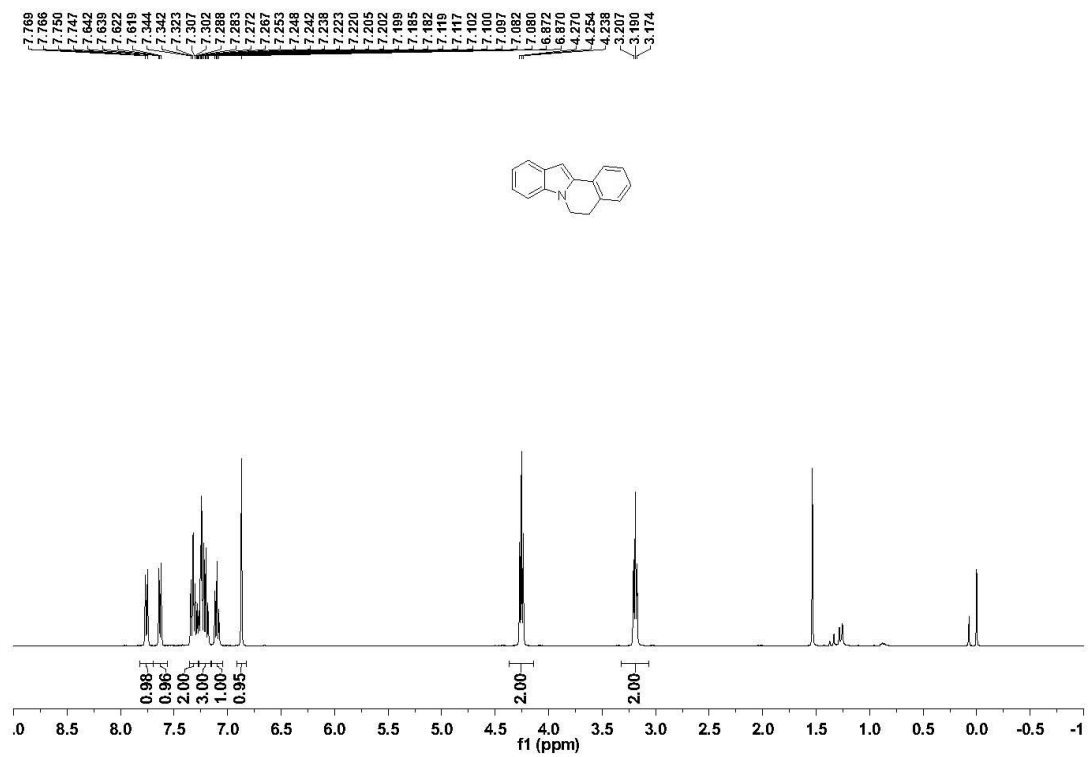
Compound 2f



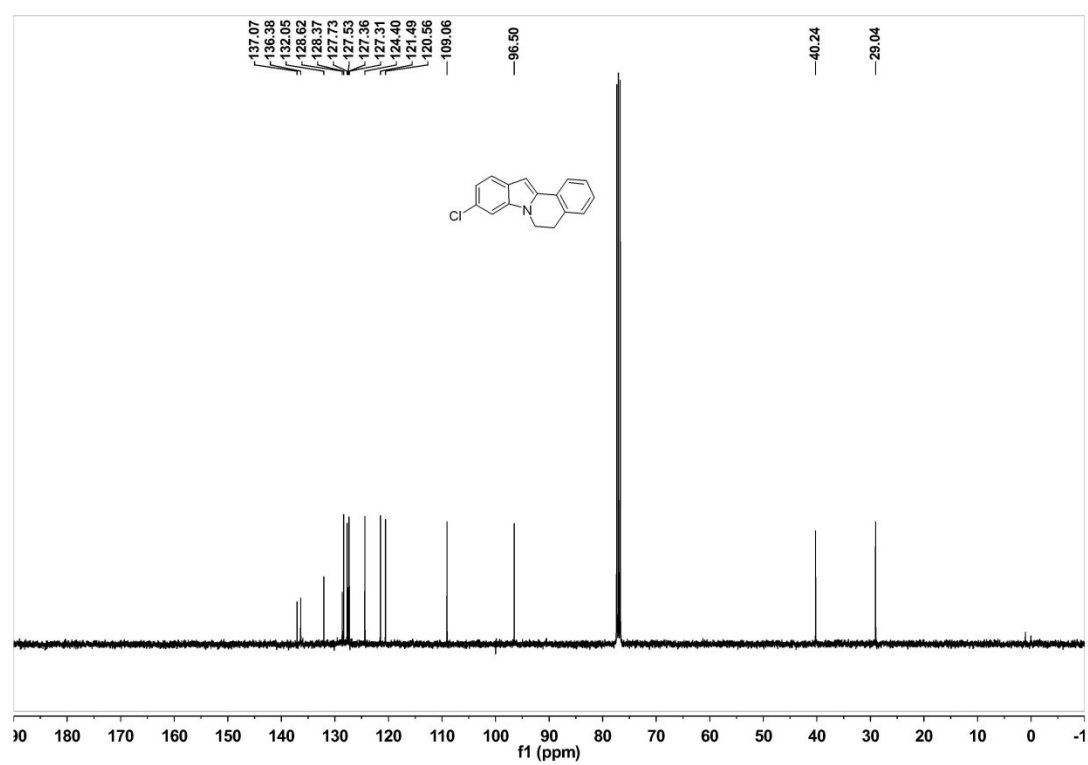
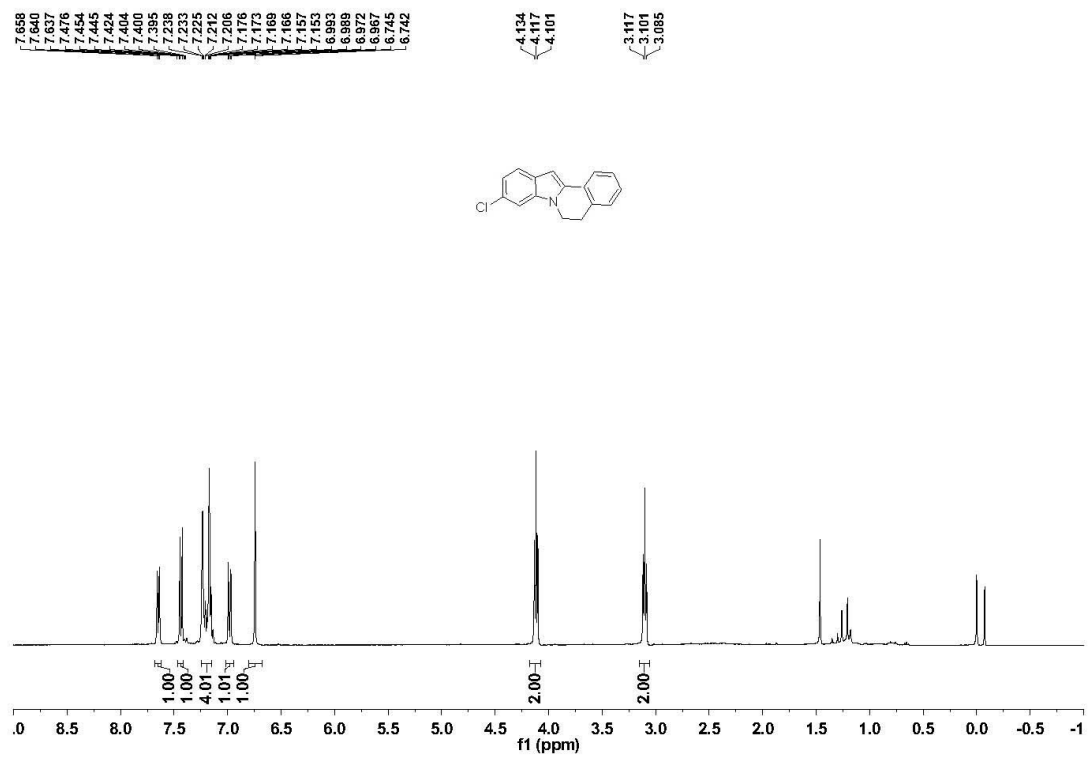
Compound 2g



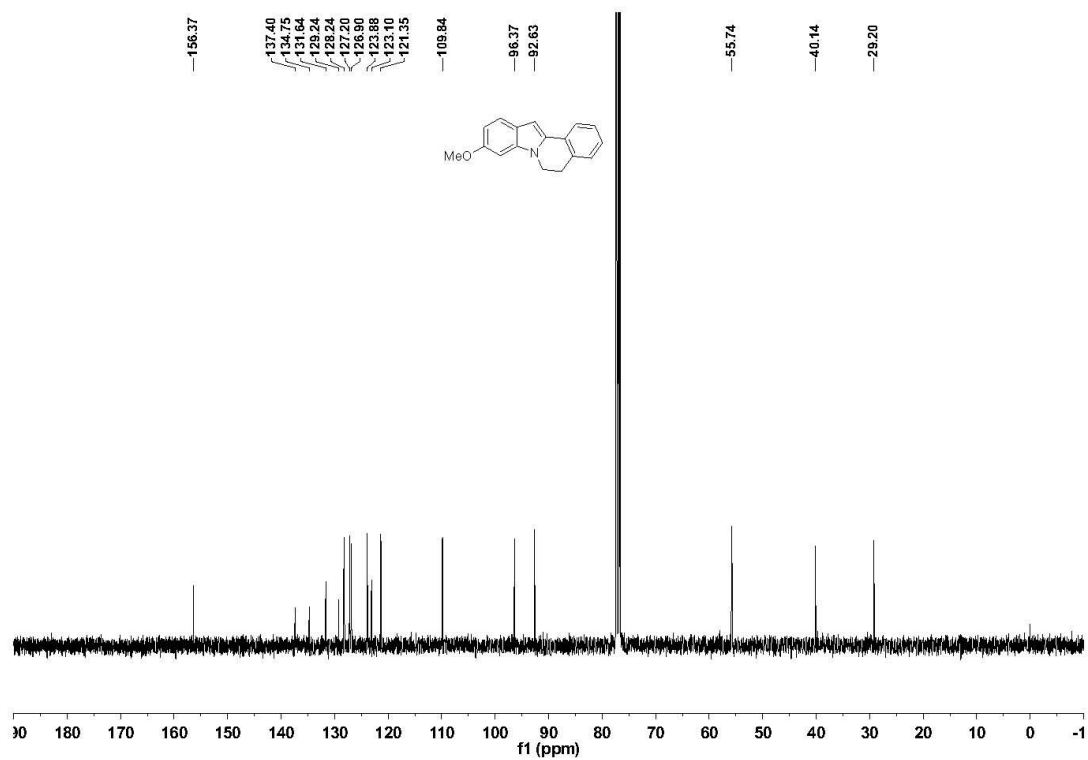
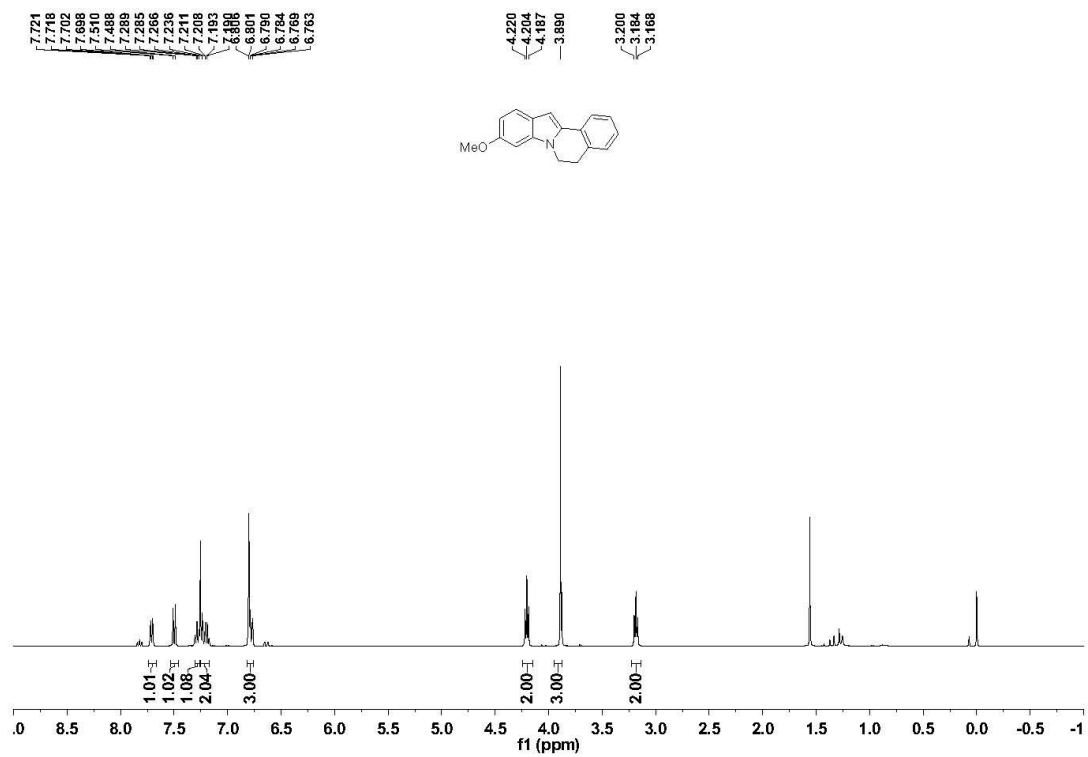
Compound 2h



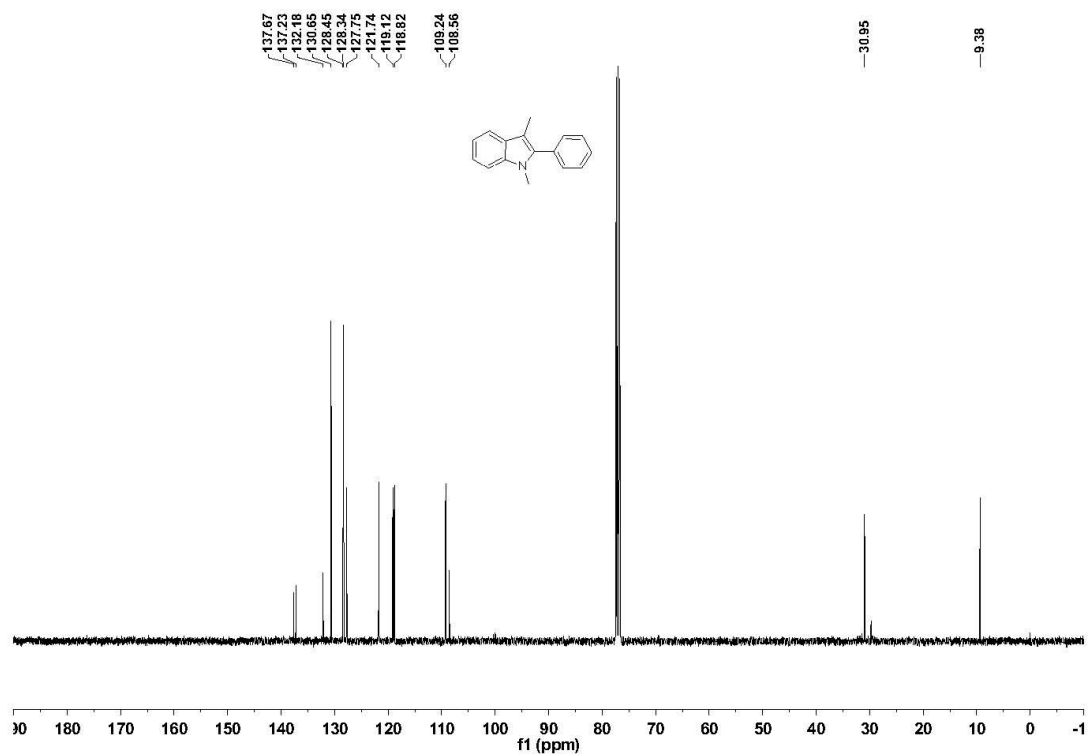
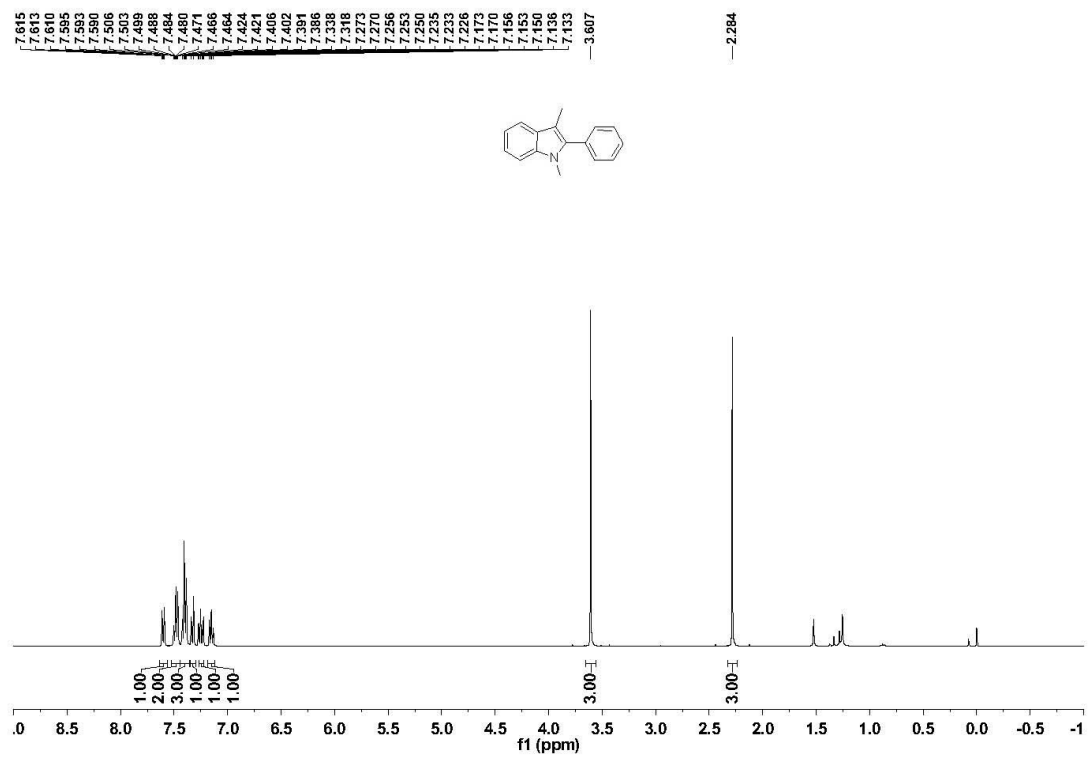
Compound 2i



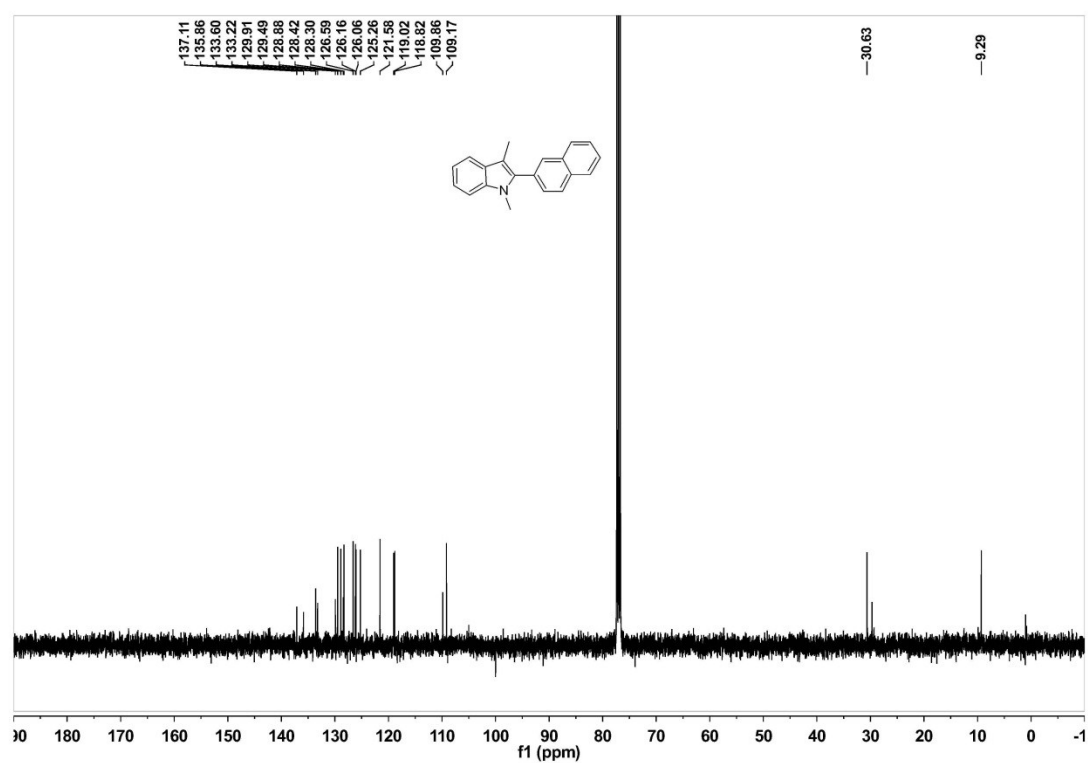
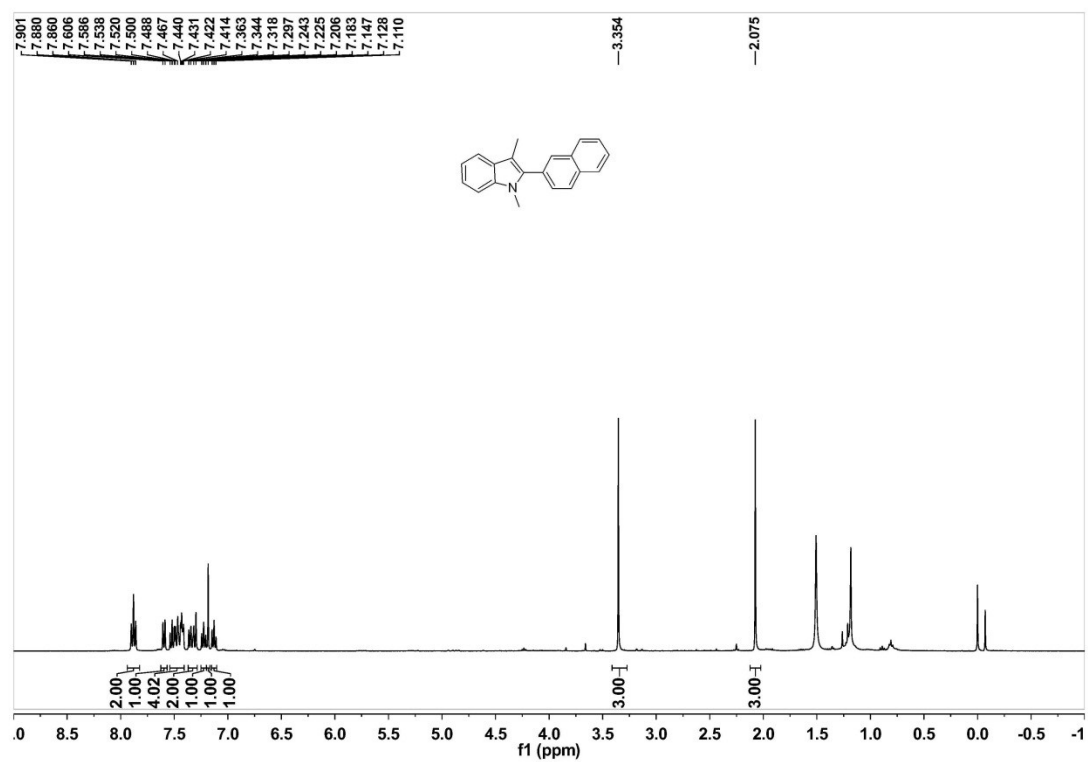
Compound 2j



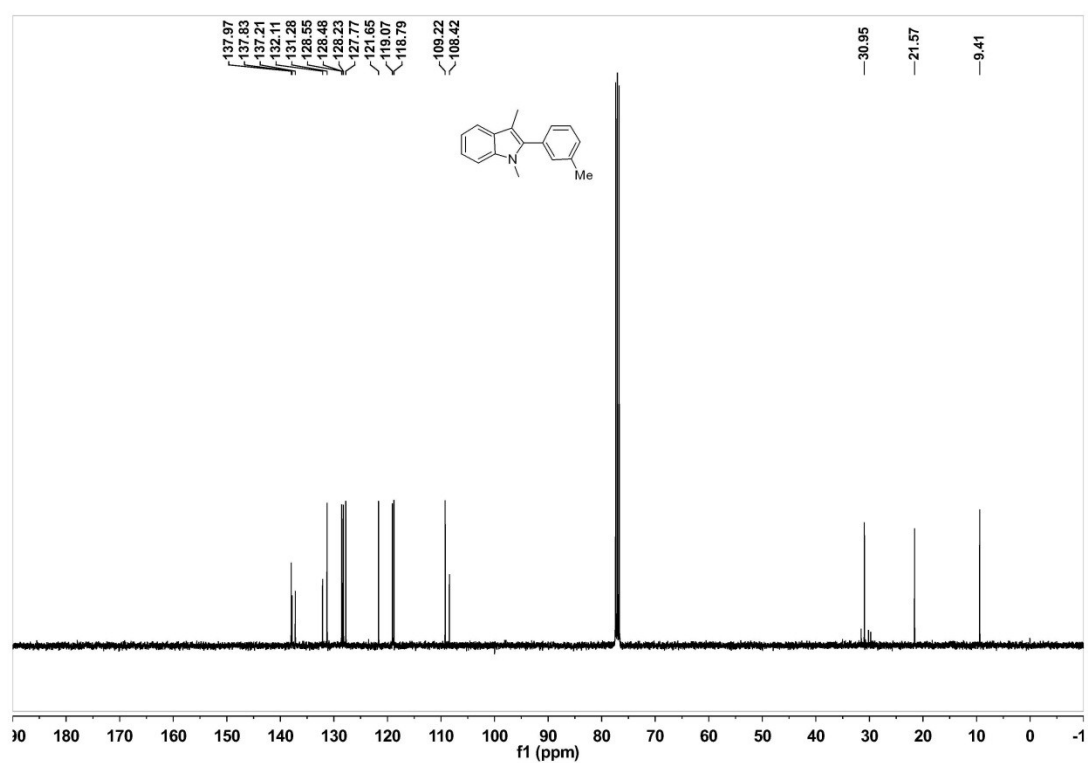
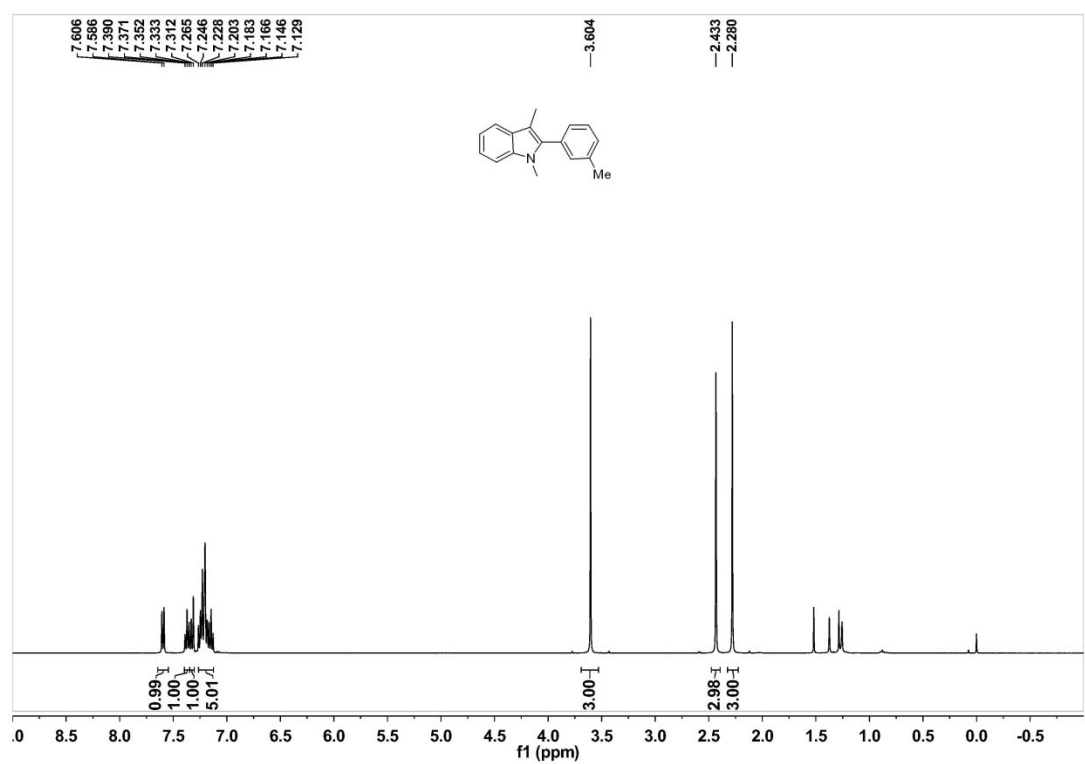
Compound 2k



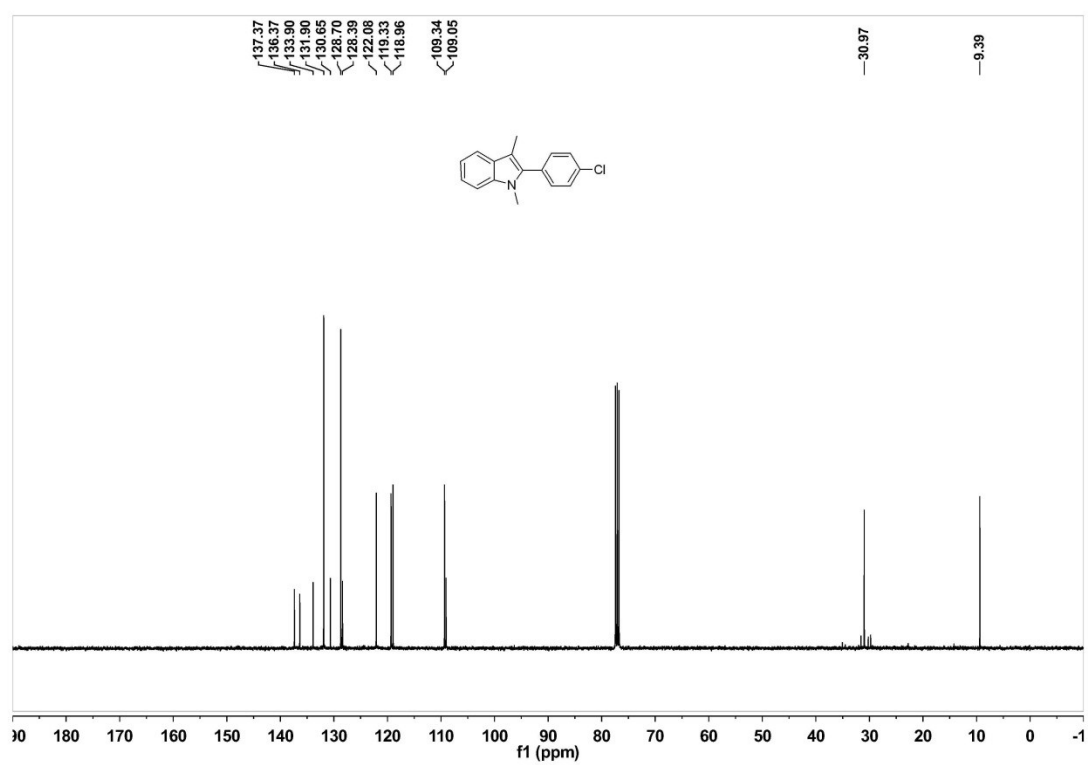
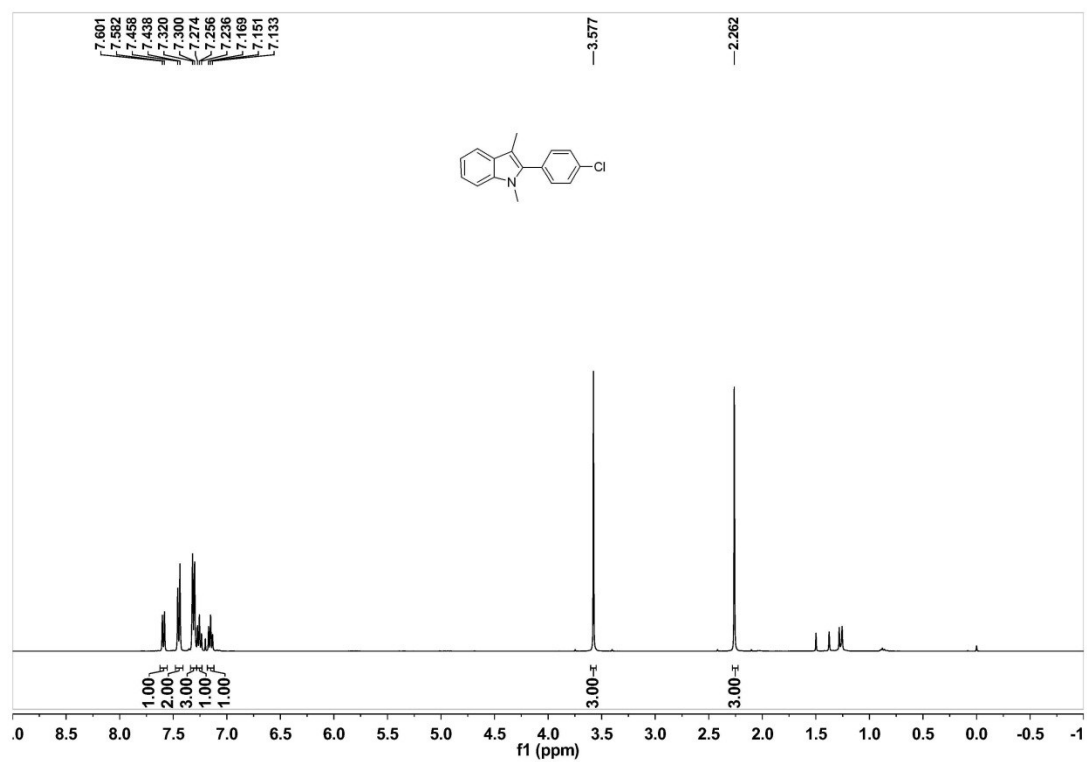
Compound 21



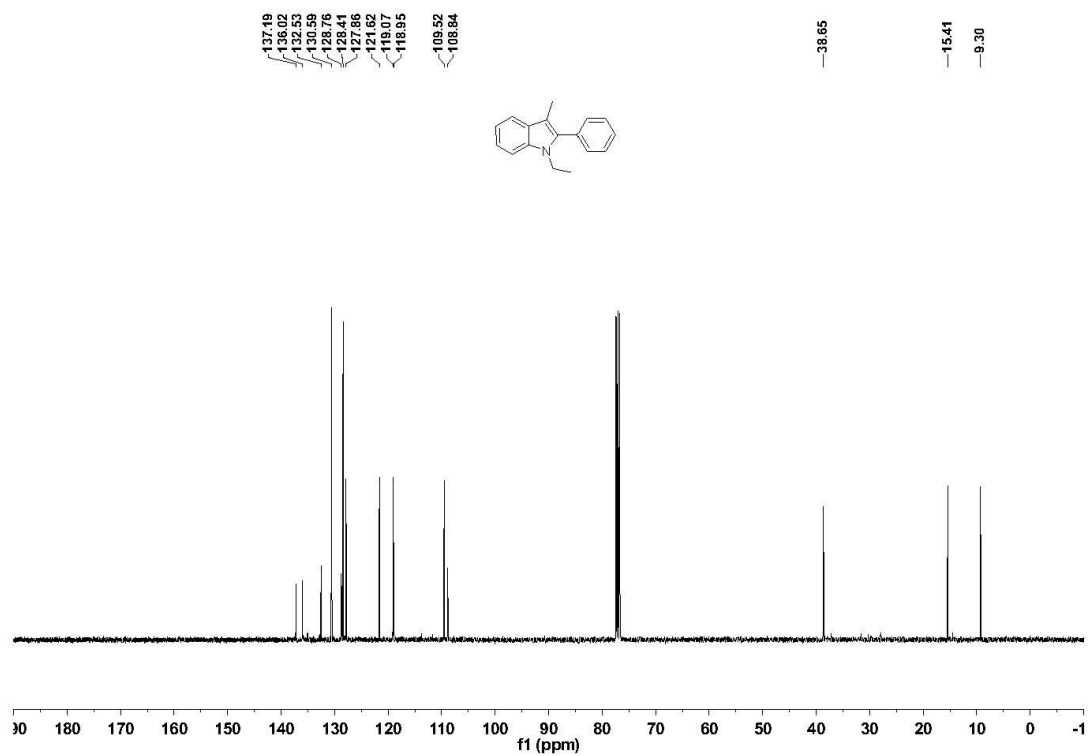
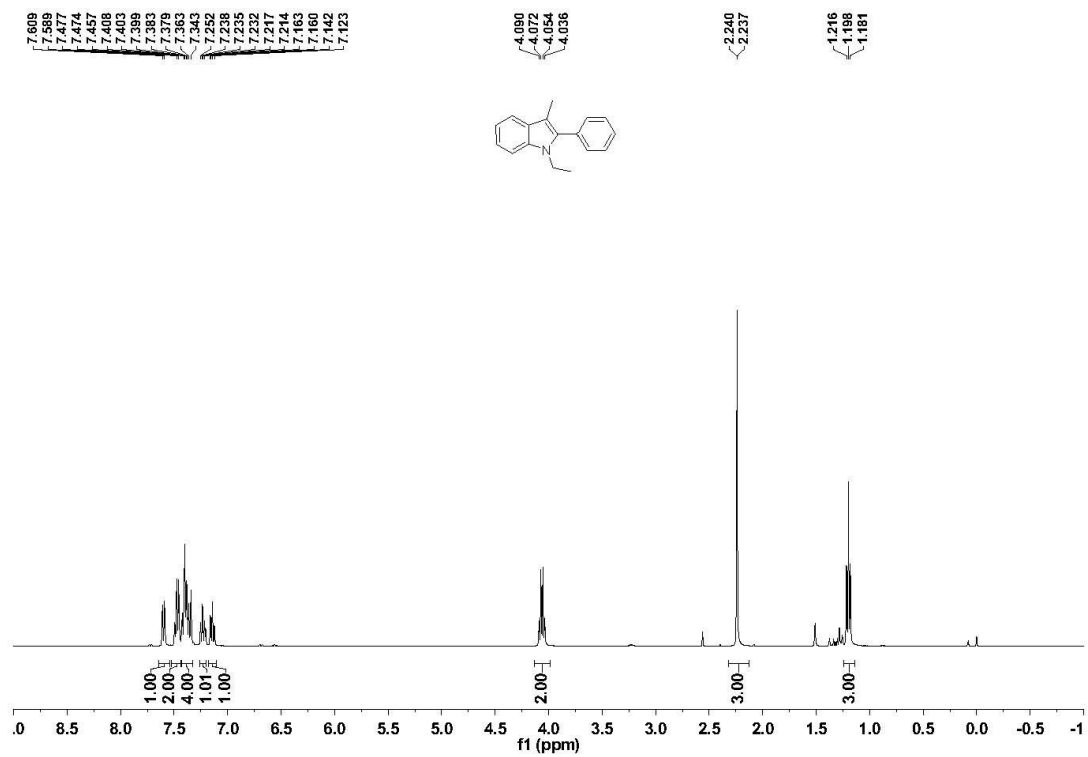
Compound 2m



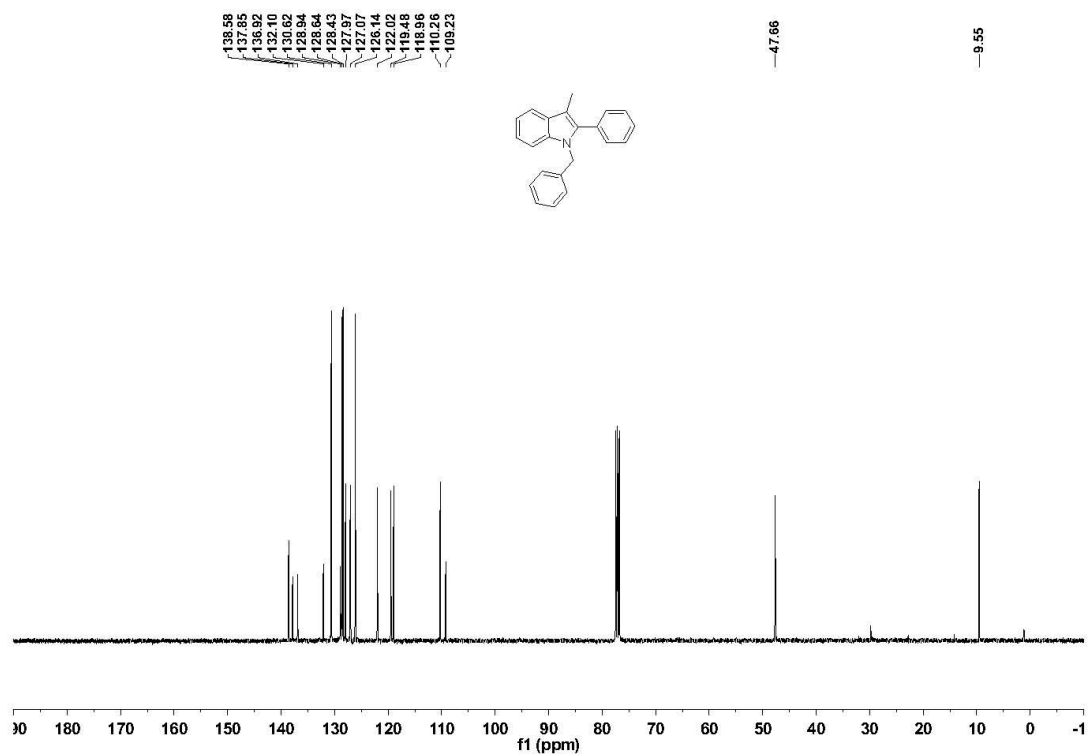
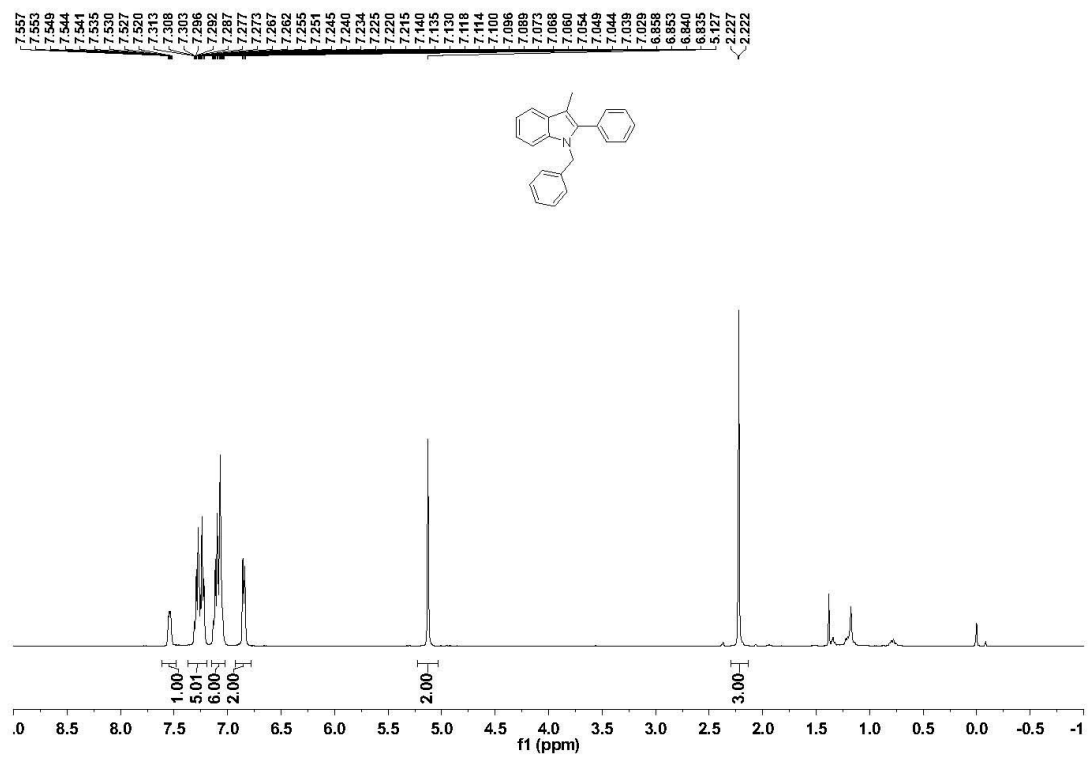
Compound 2n



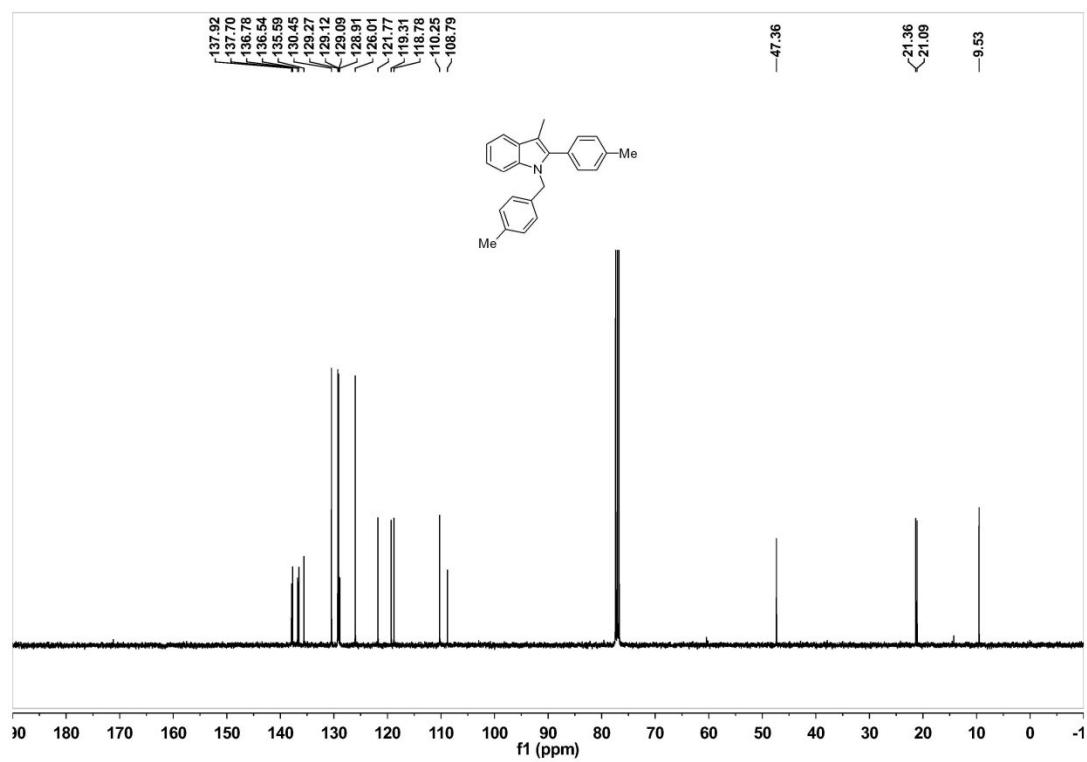
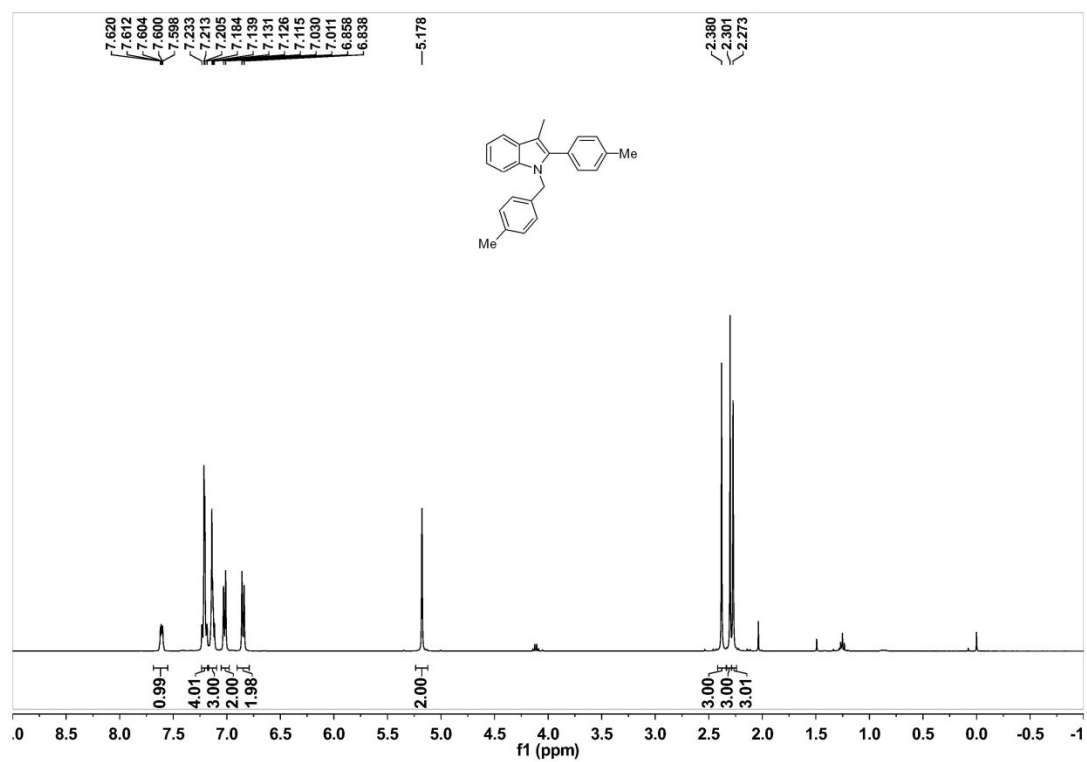
Compound 2o



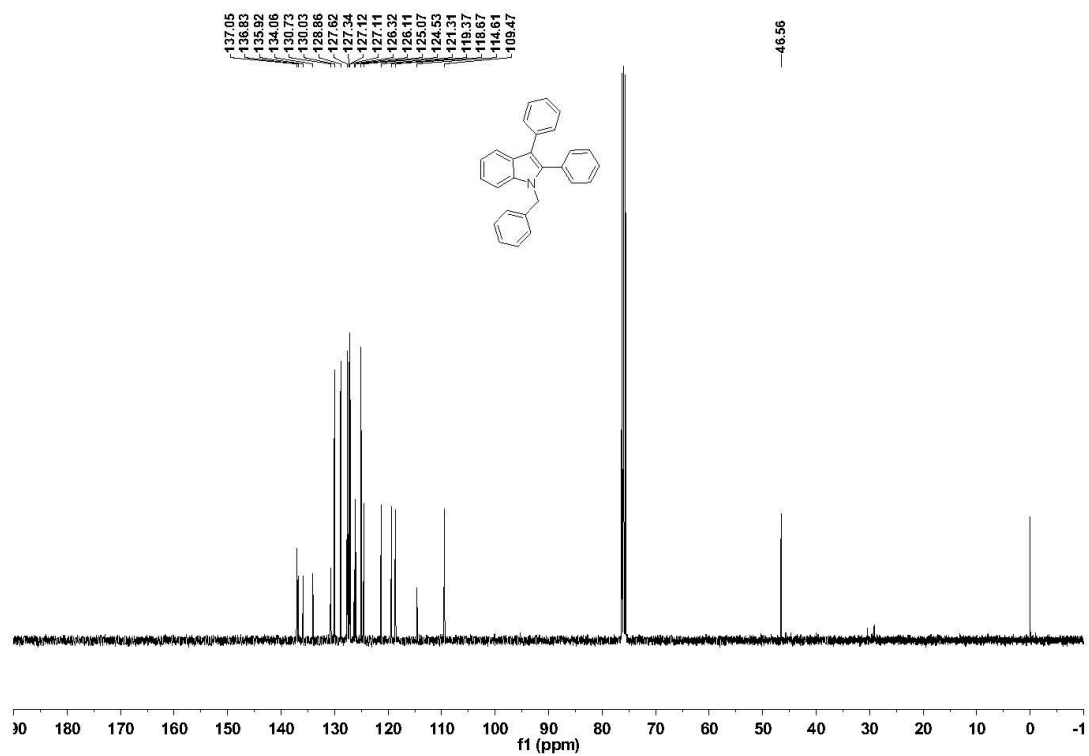
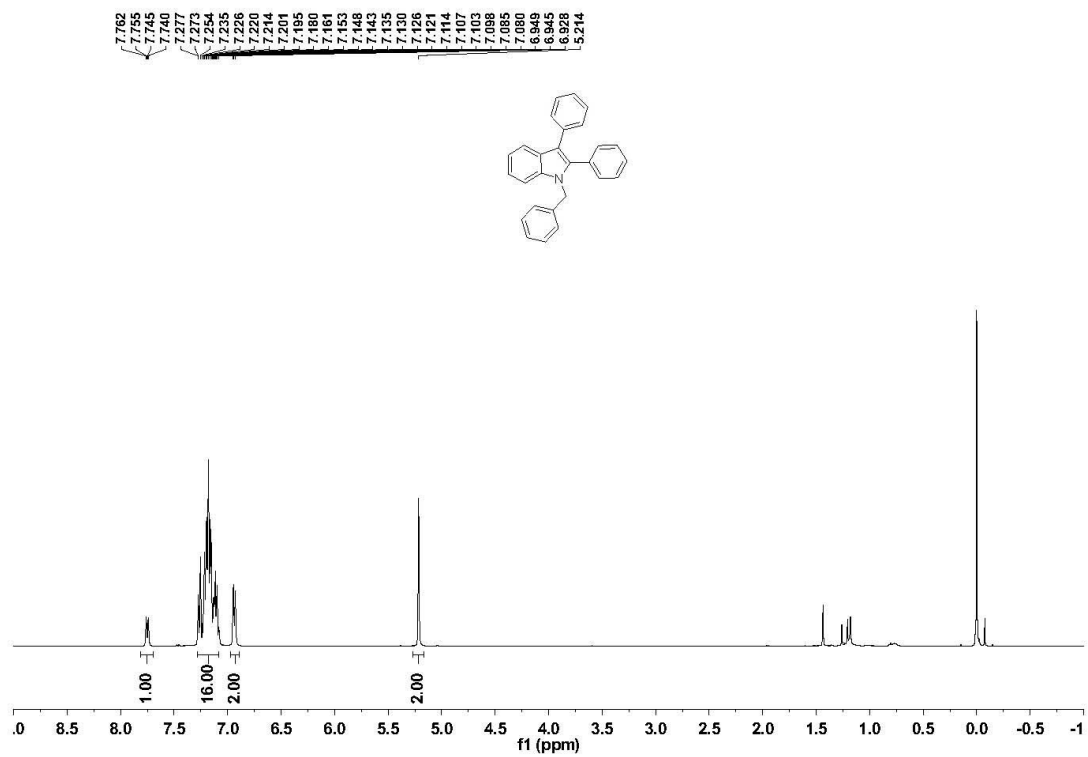
Compound 2p



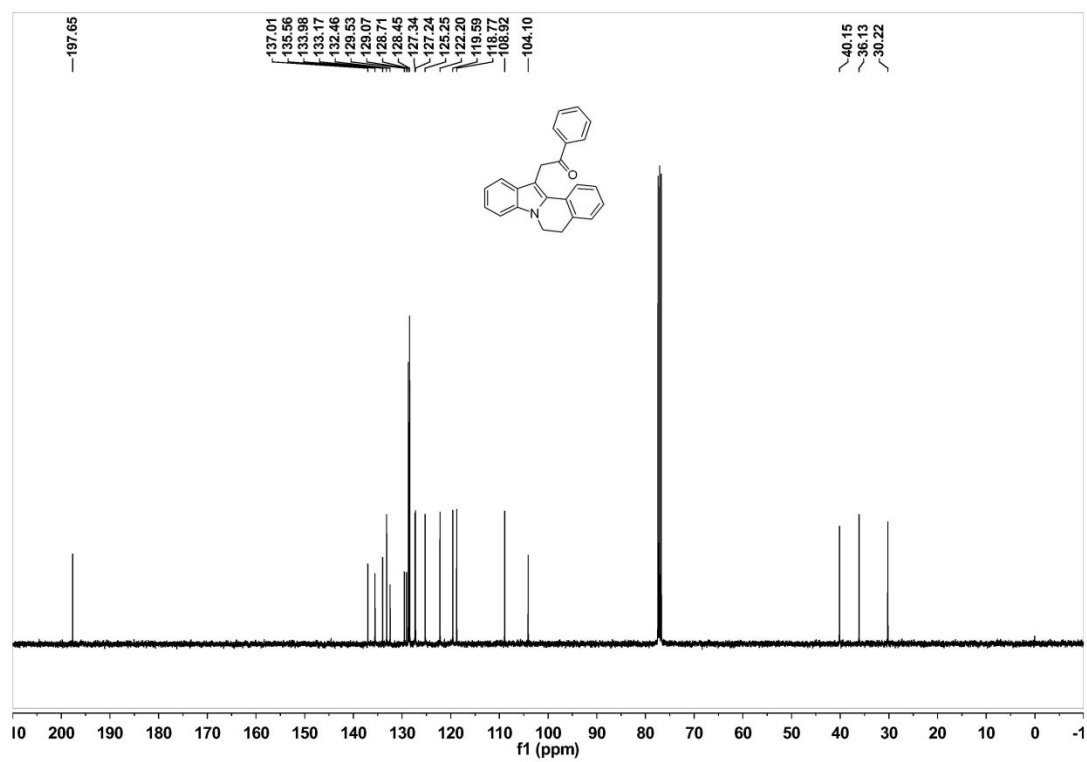
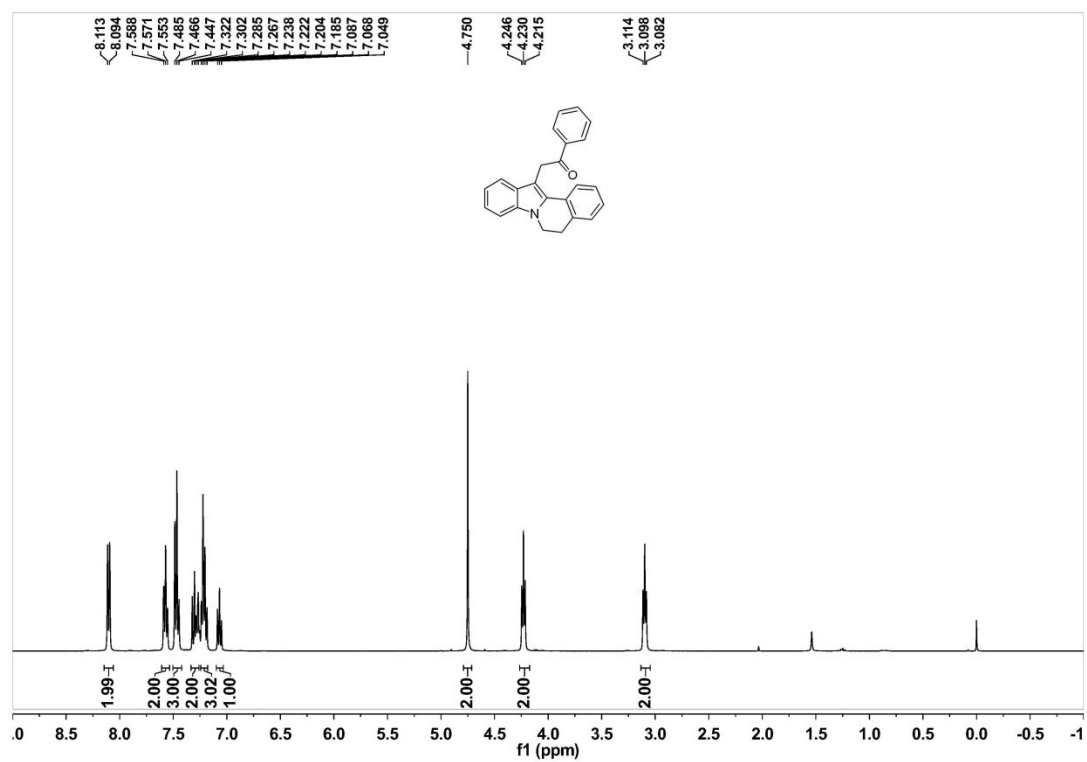
Compound 2q



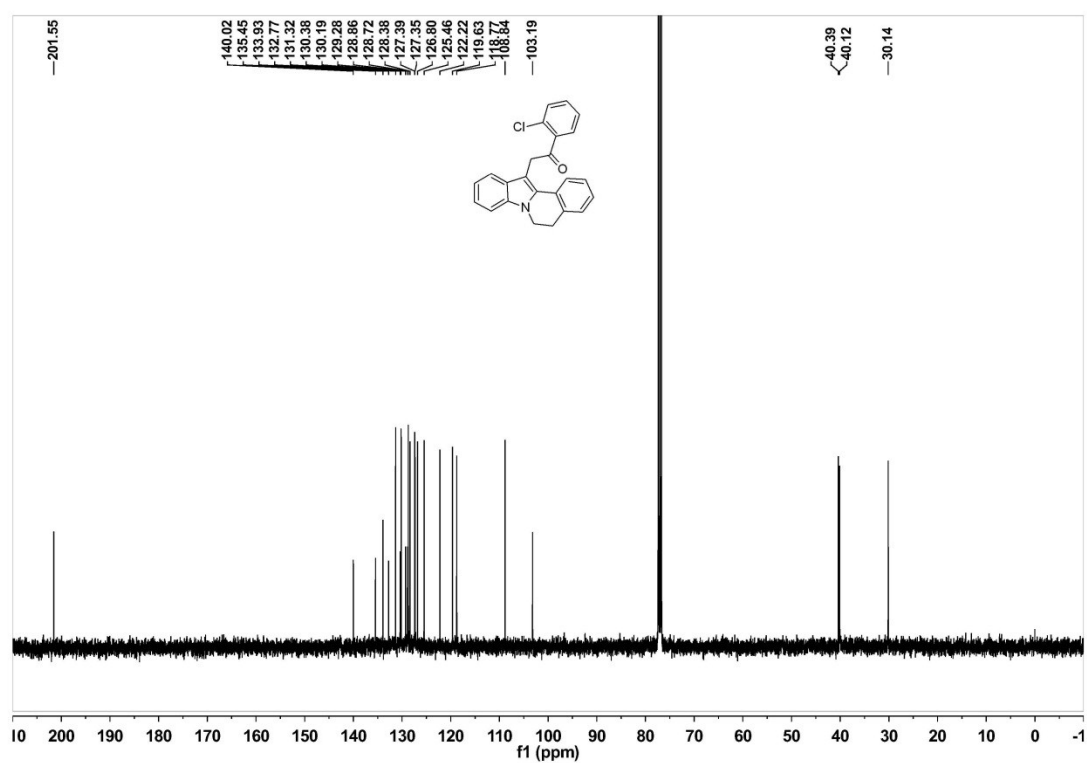
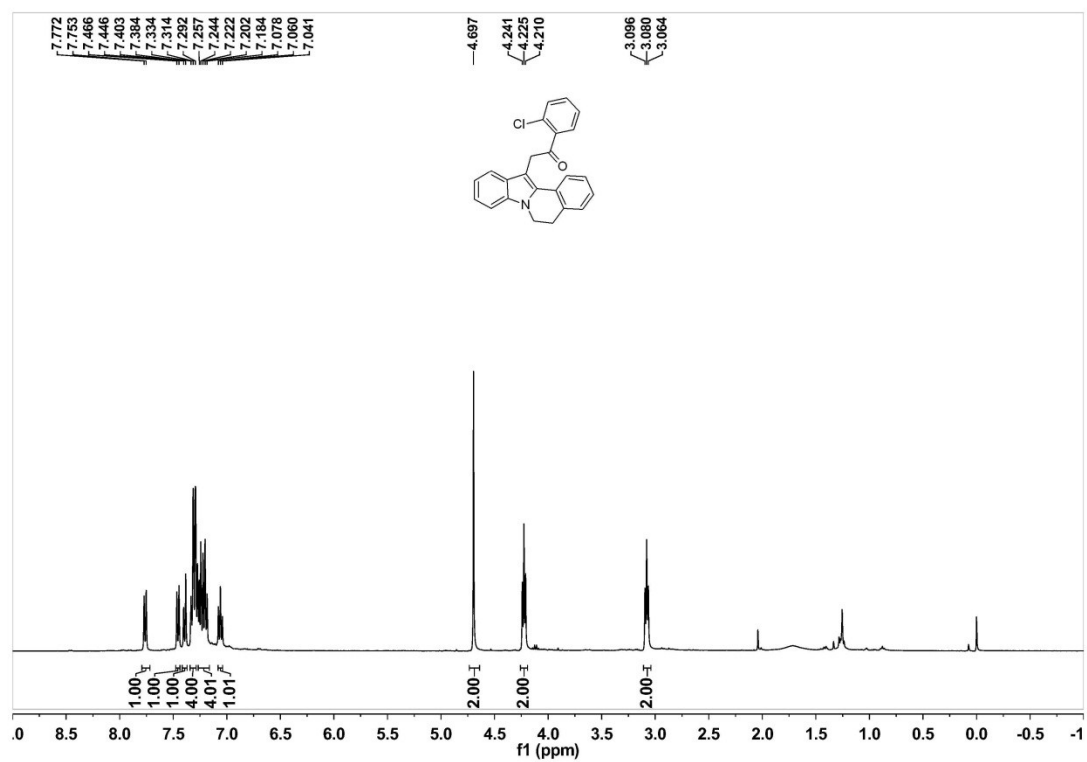
Compound 2r



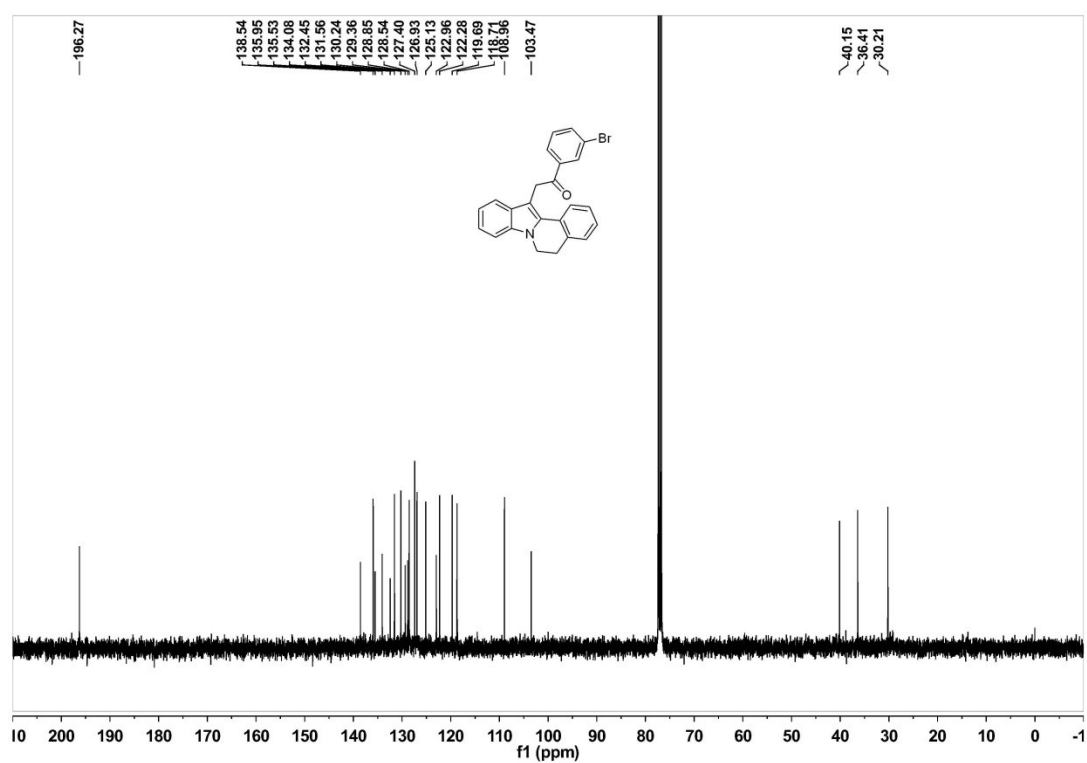
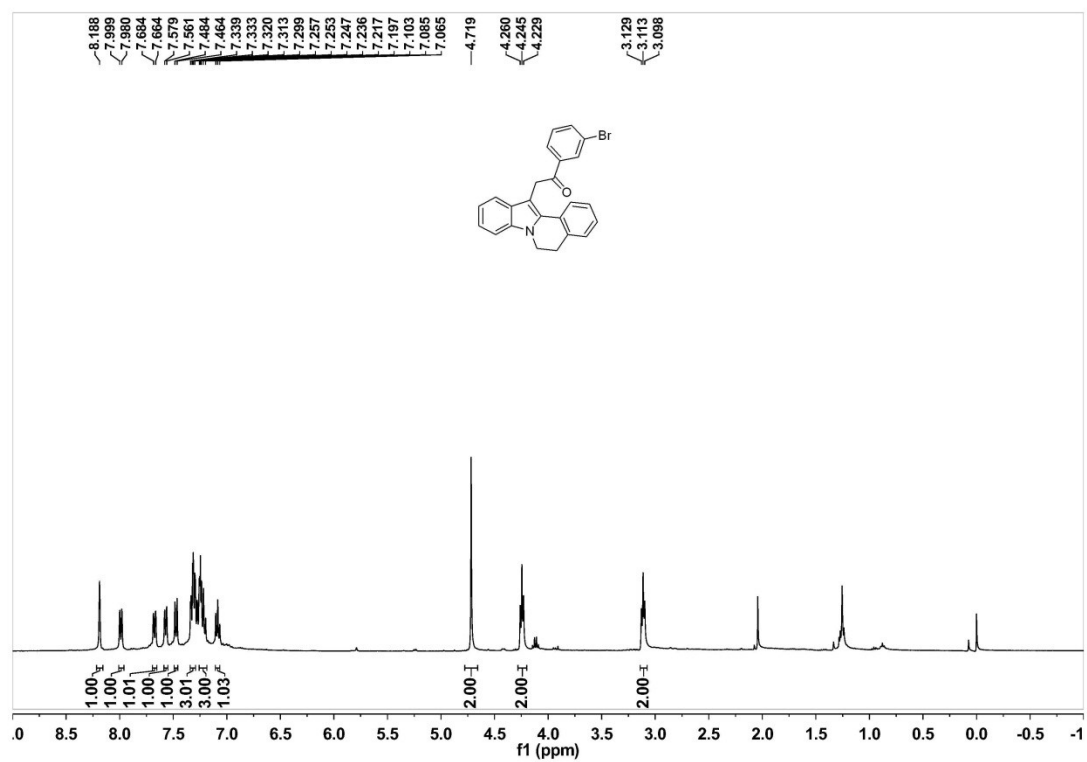
Compound 4a



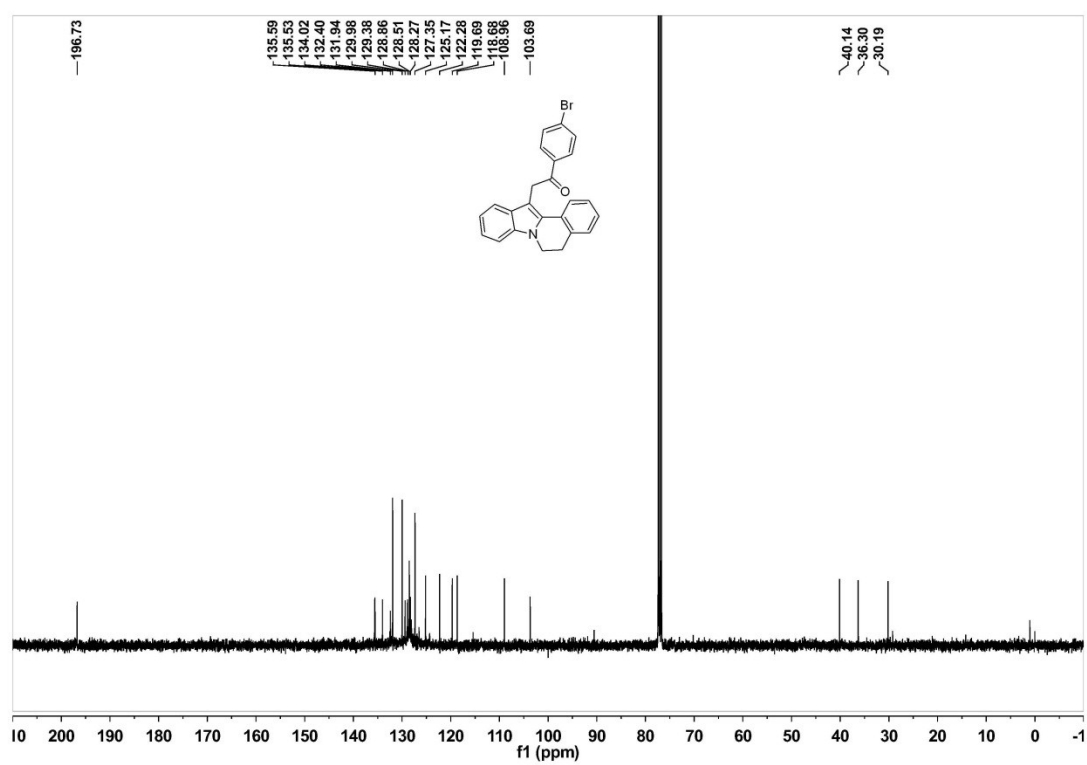
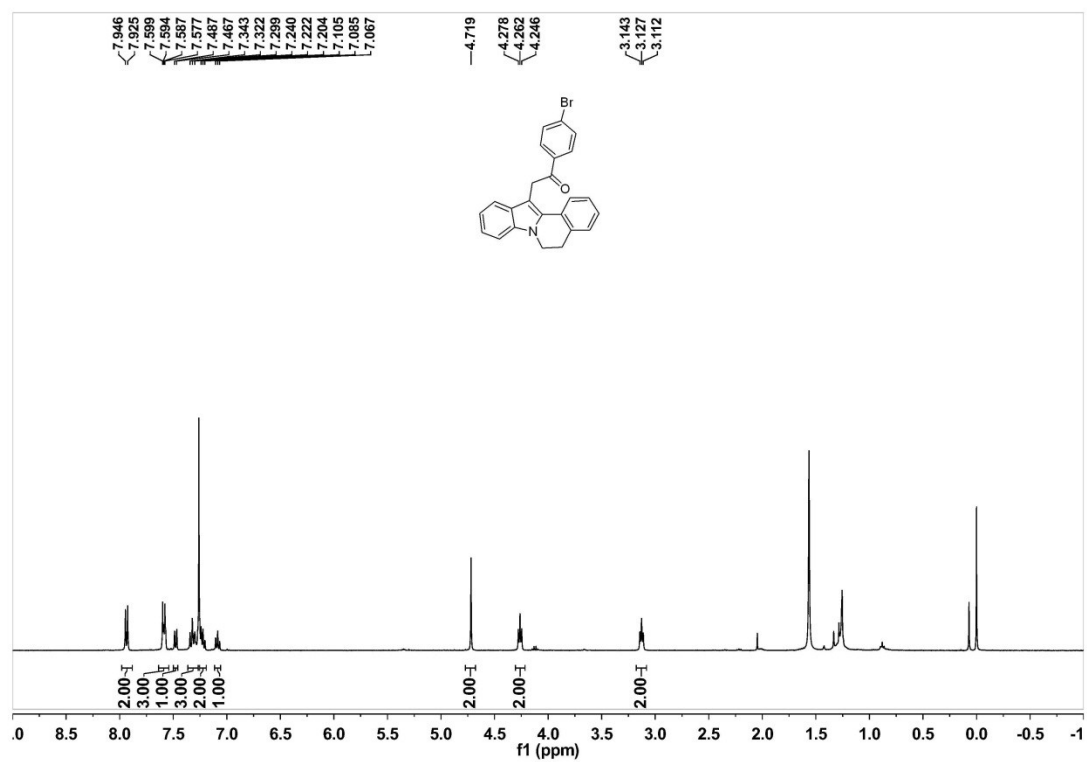
Compound 4b



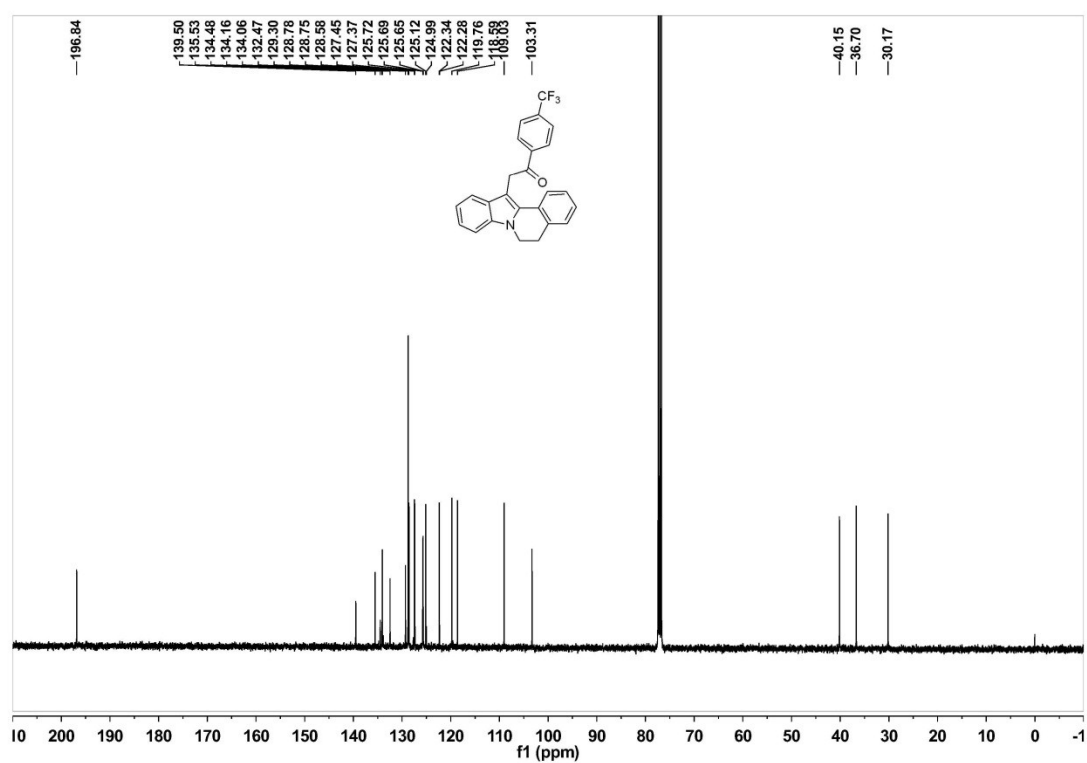
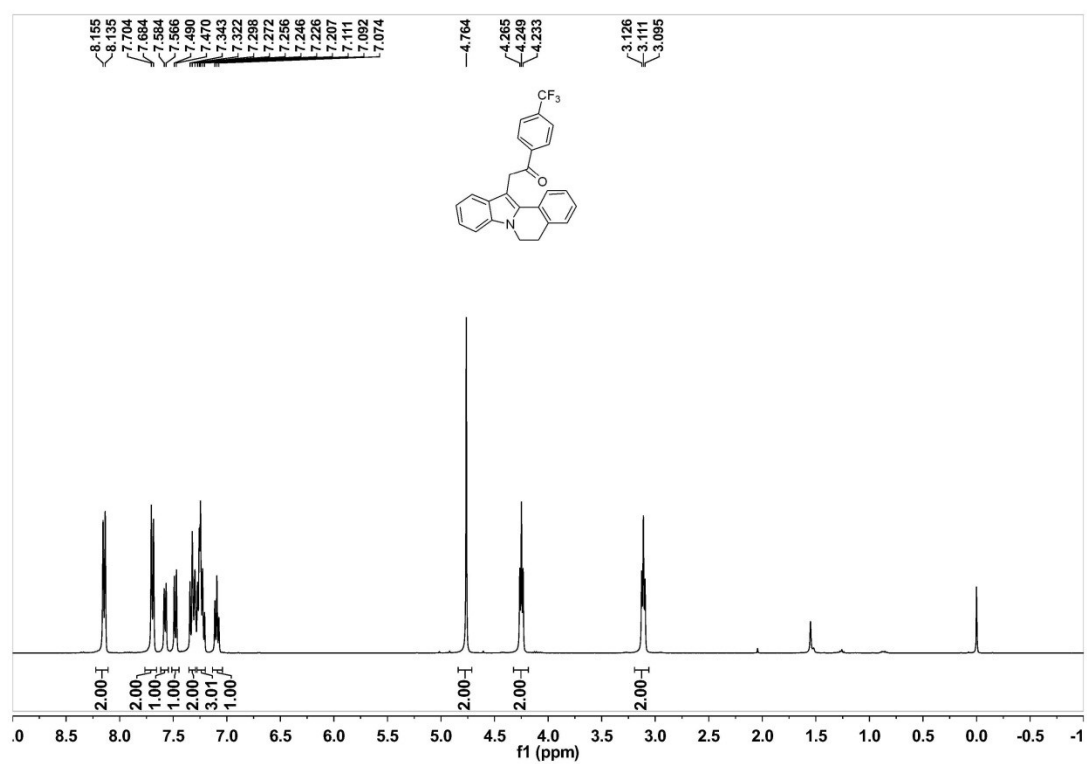
Compound 4c



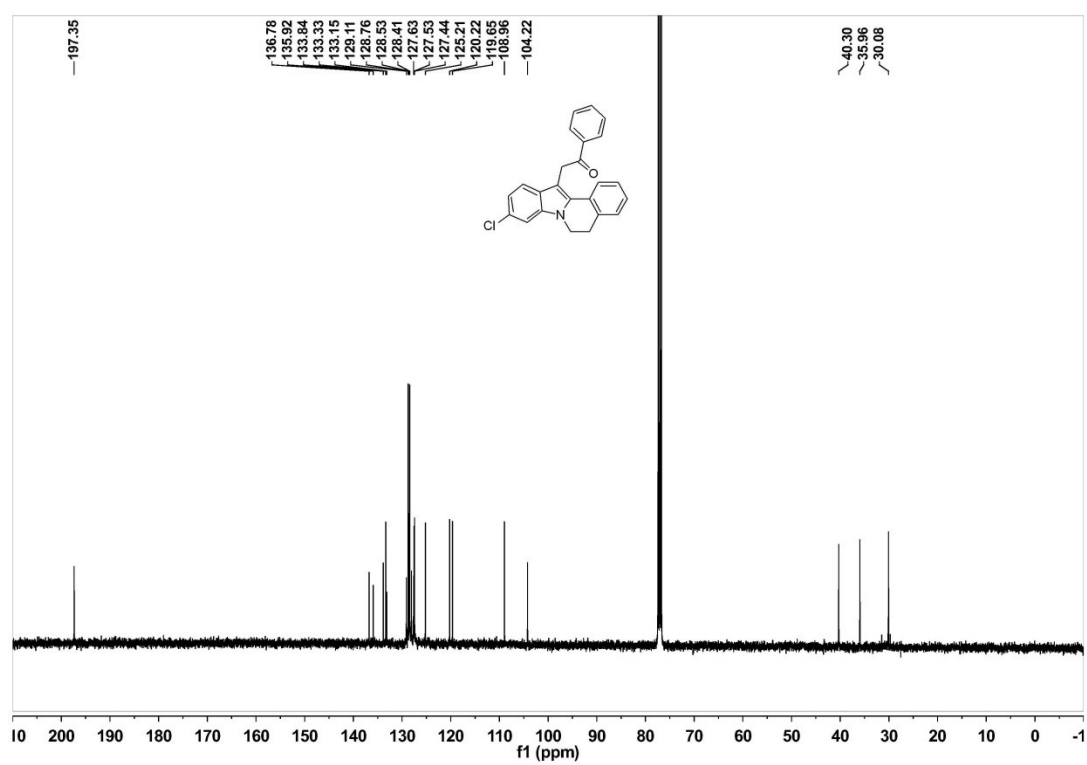
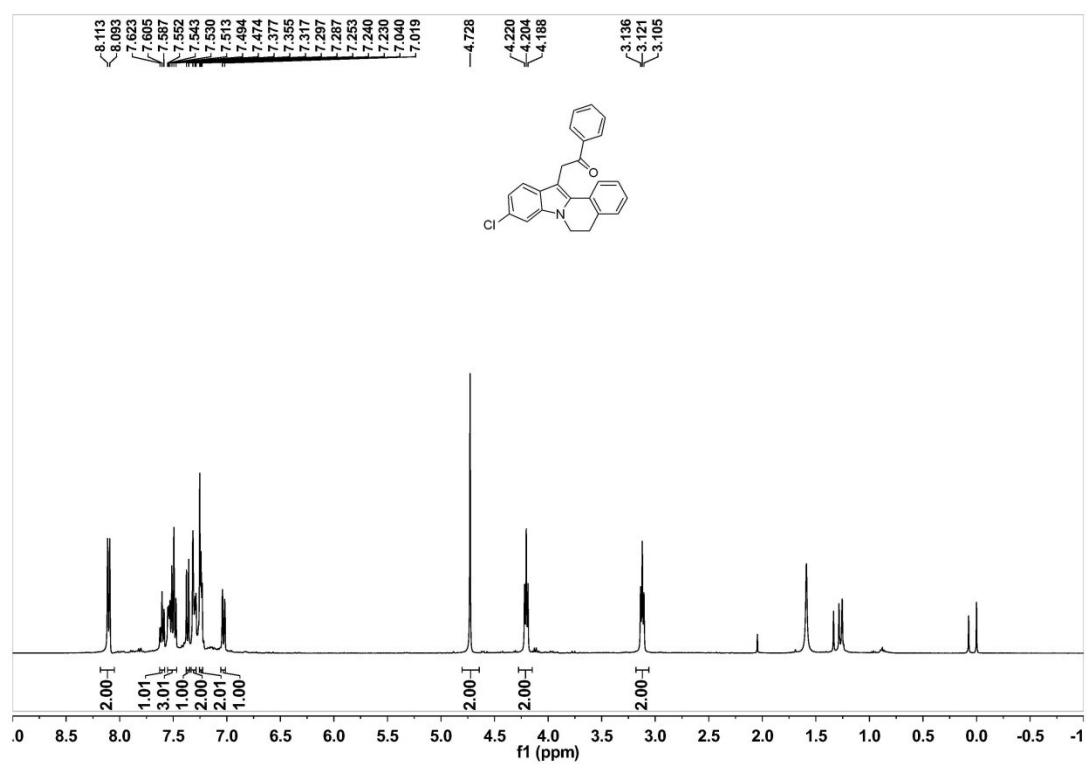
Compound 4d



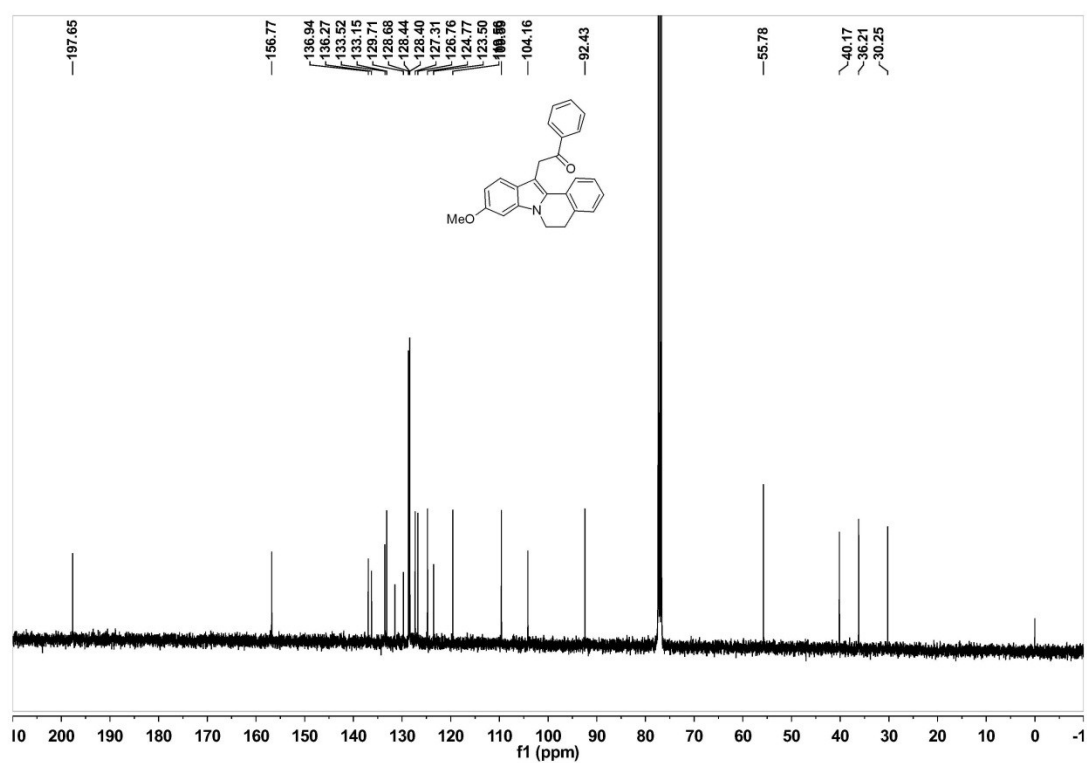
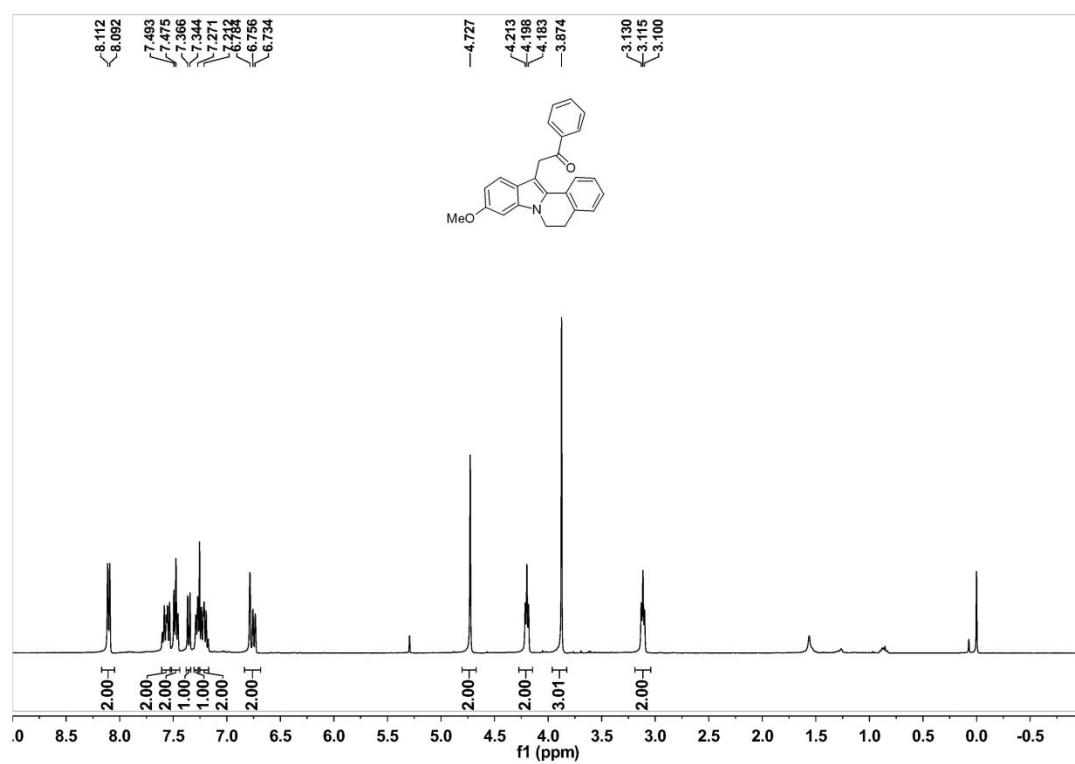
Compound 4e



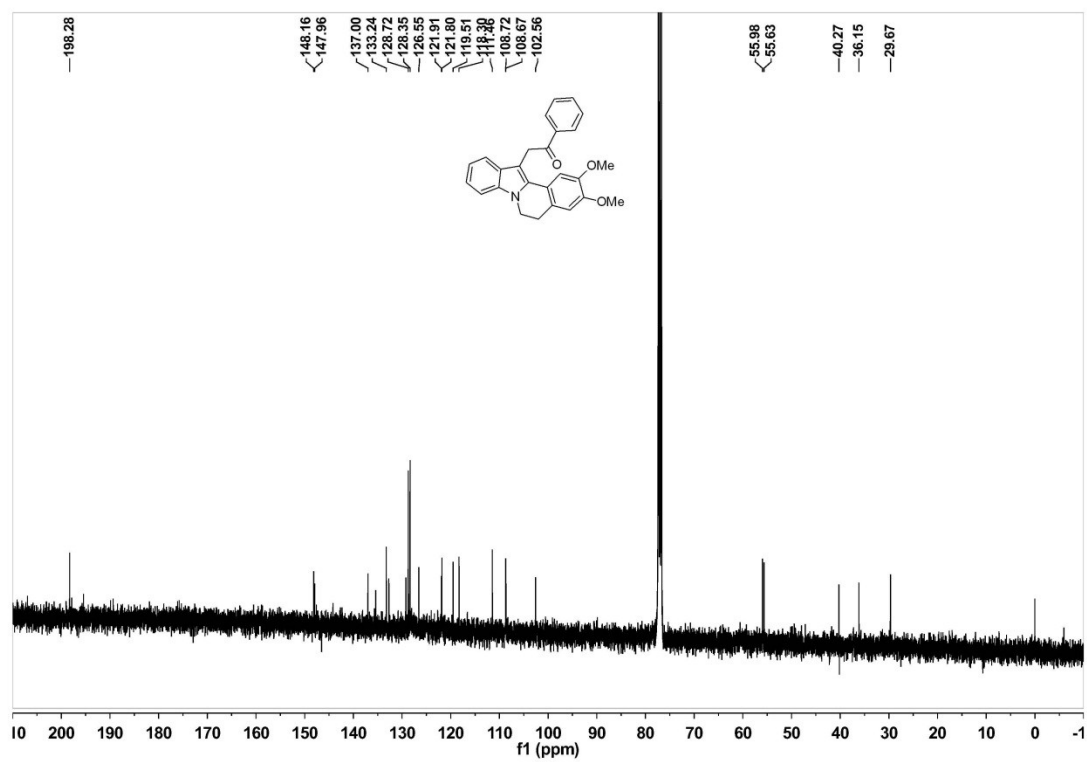
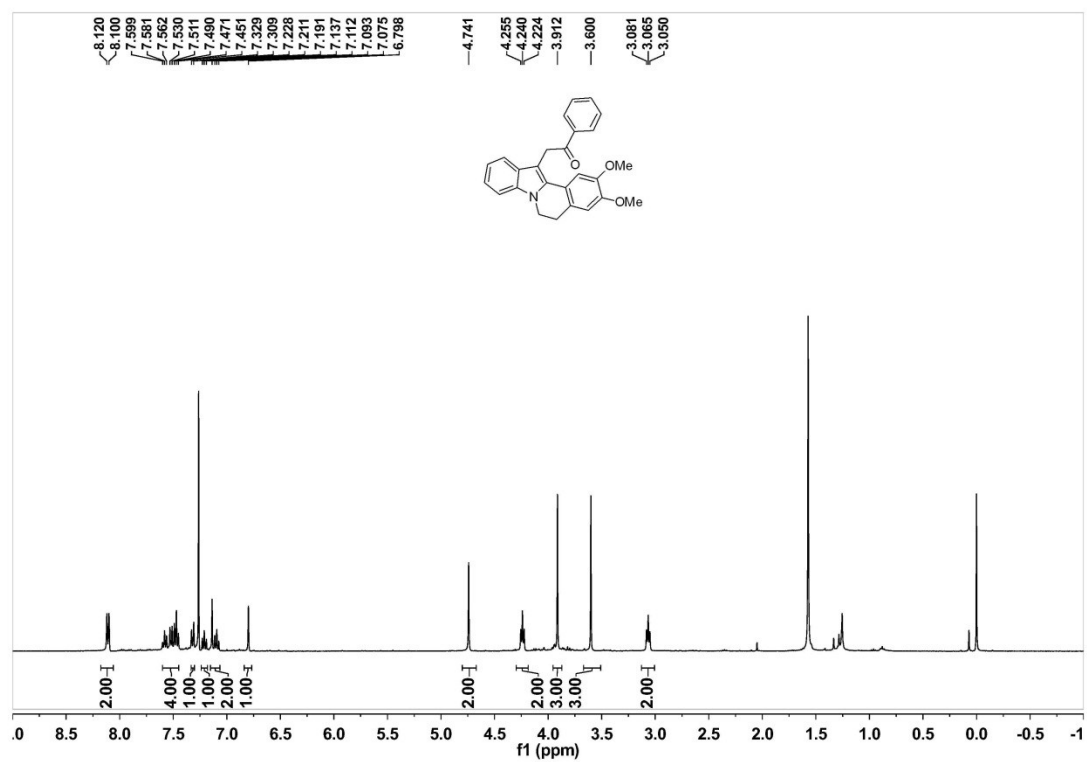
Compound 4f



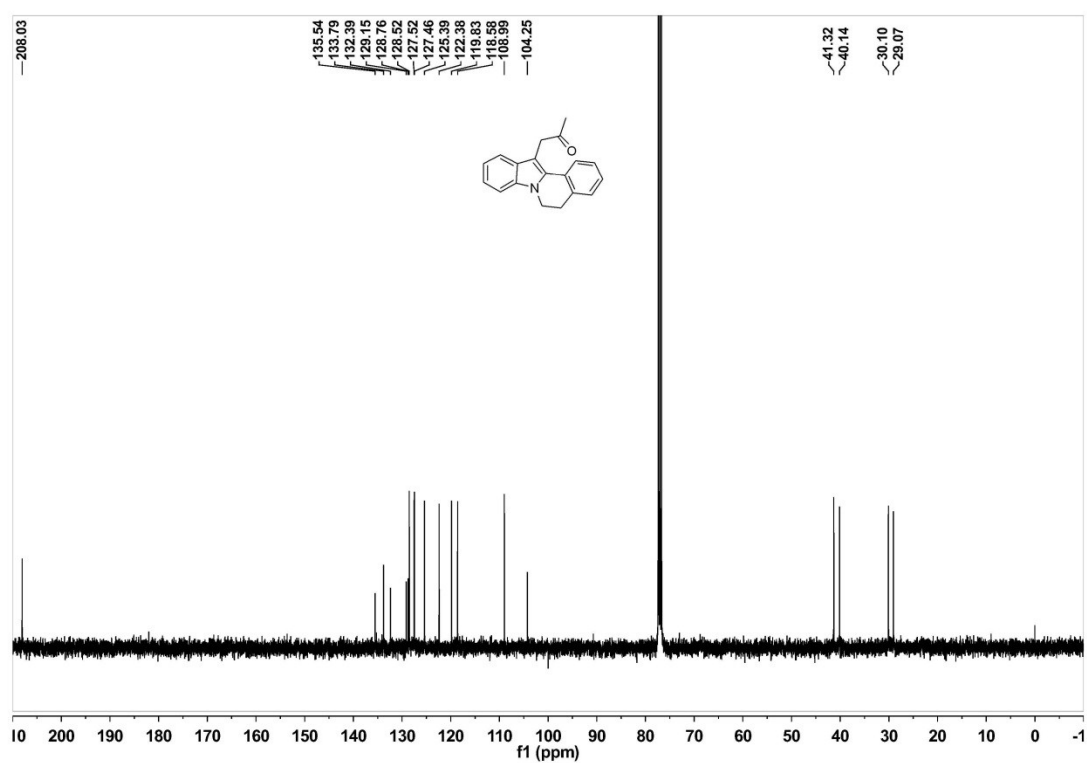
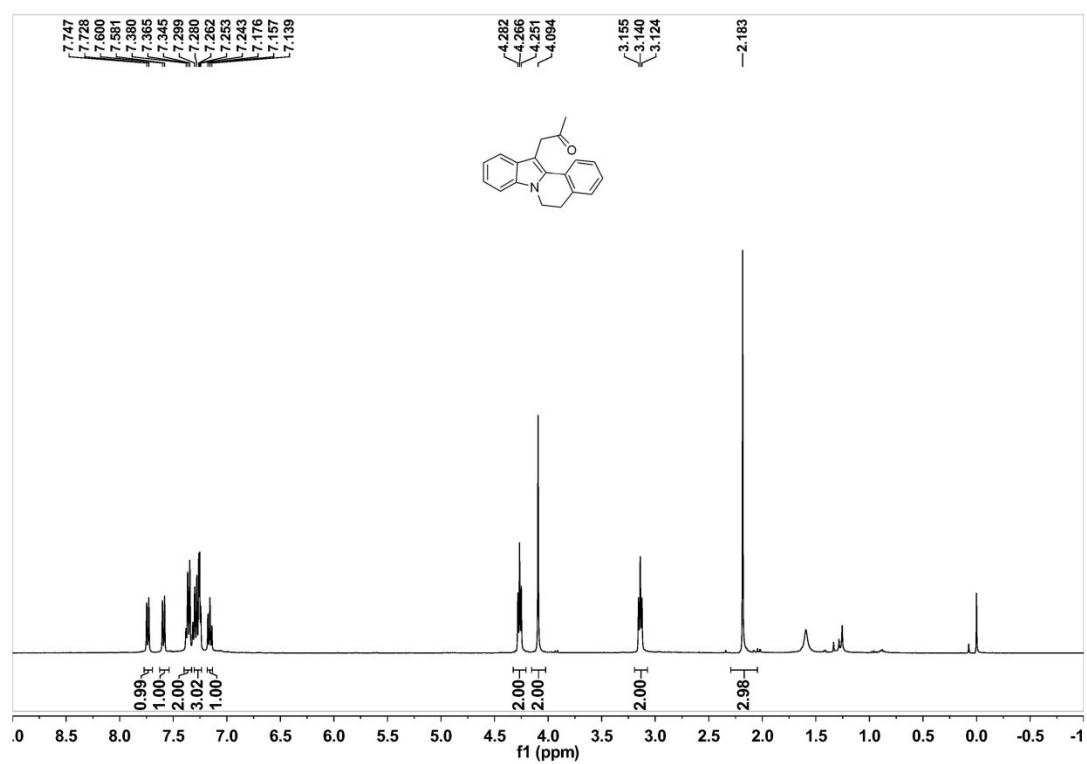
Compound 4g



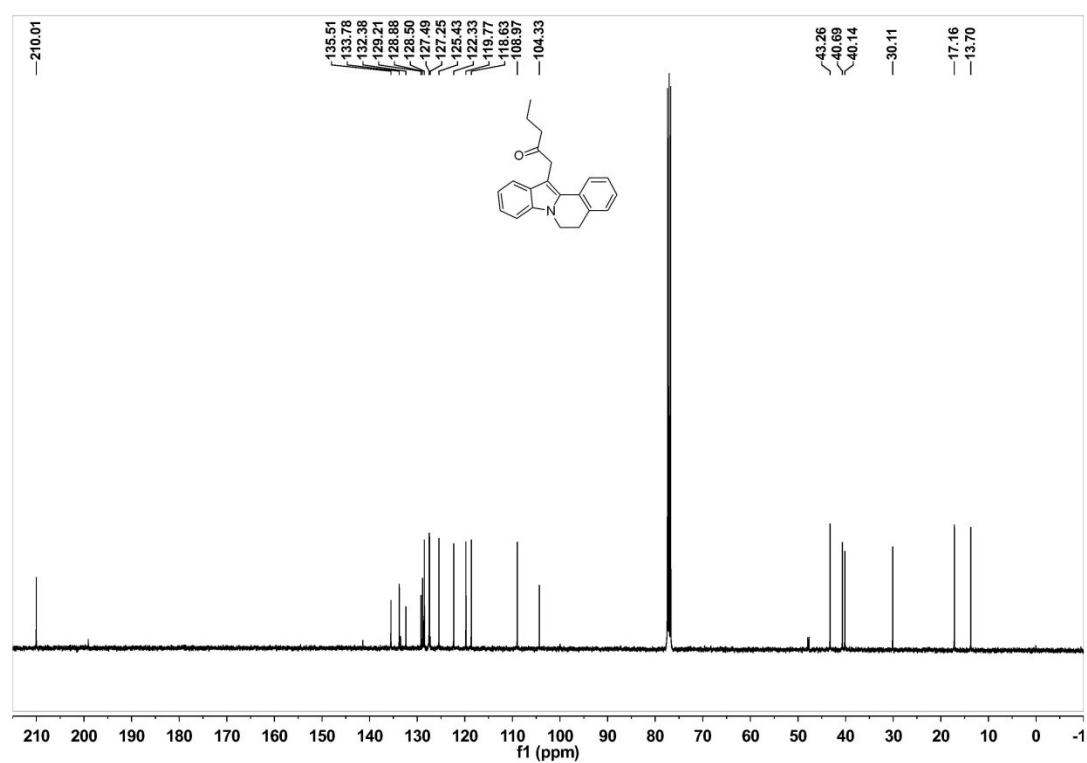
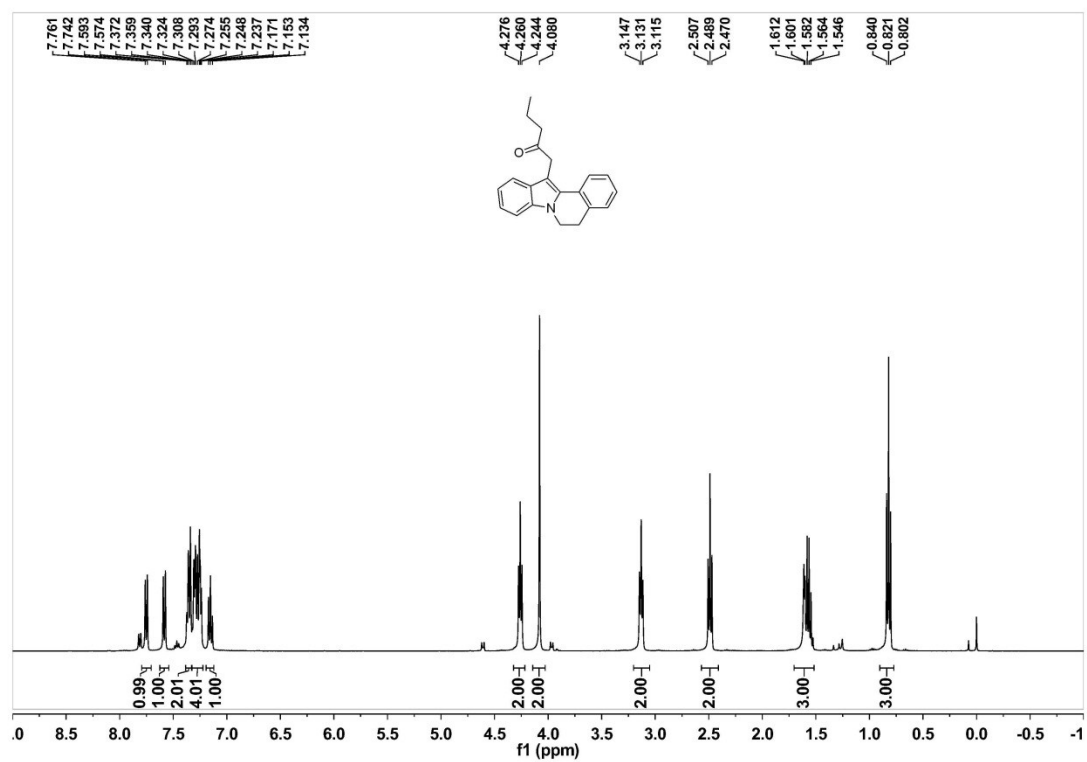
Compound 4h



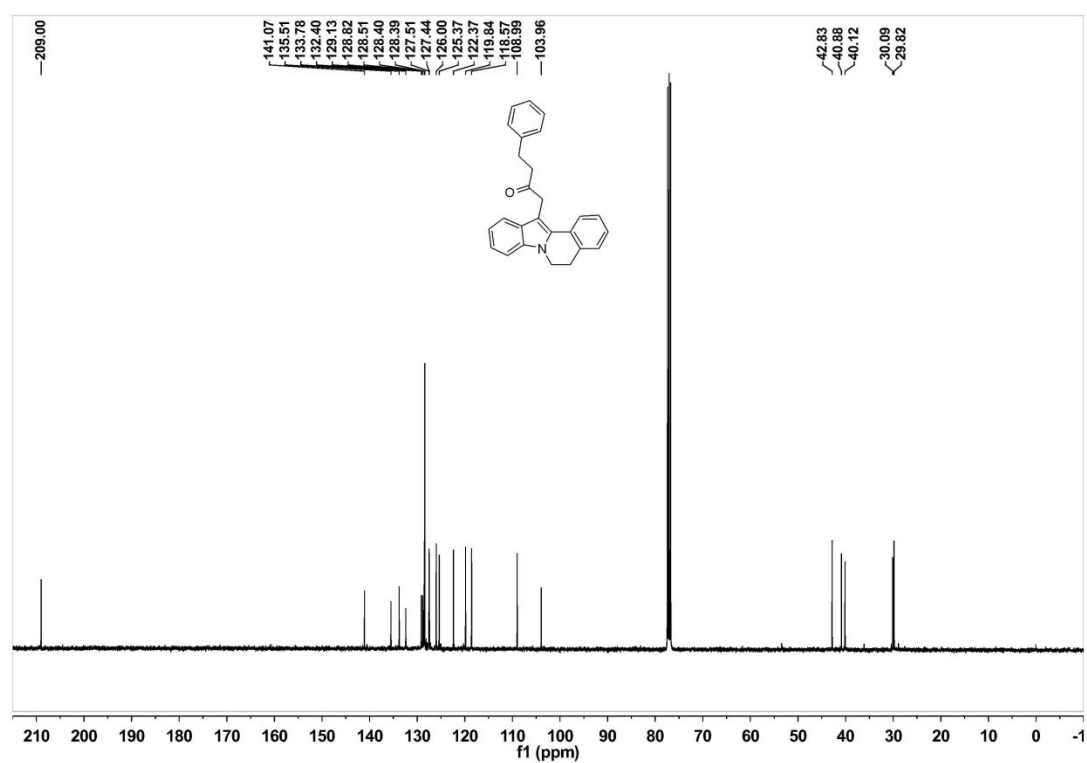
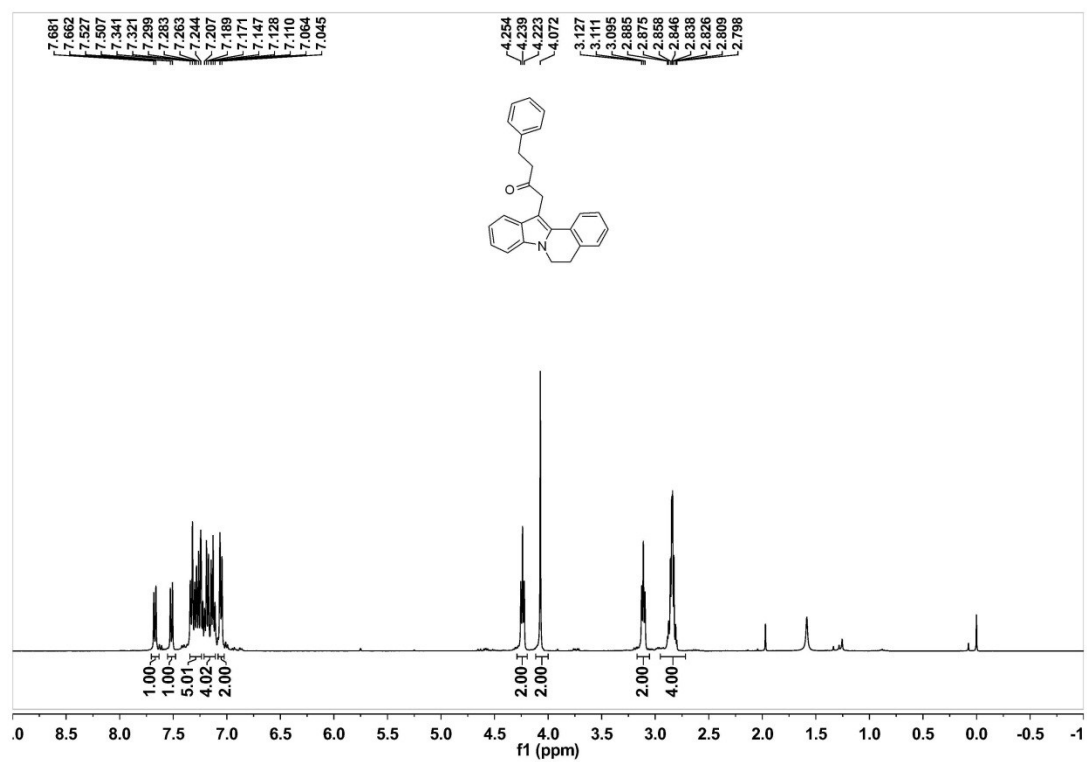
Compound 4i



Compound 4j



Compound 4k



Compound 4l

